

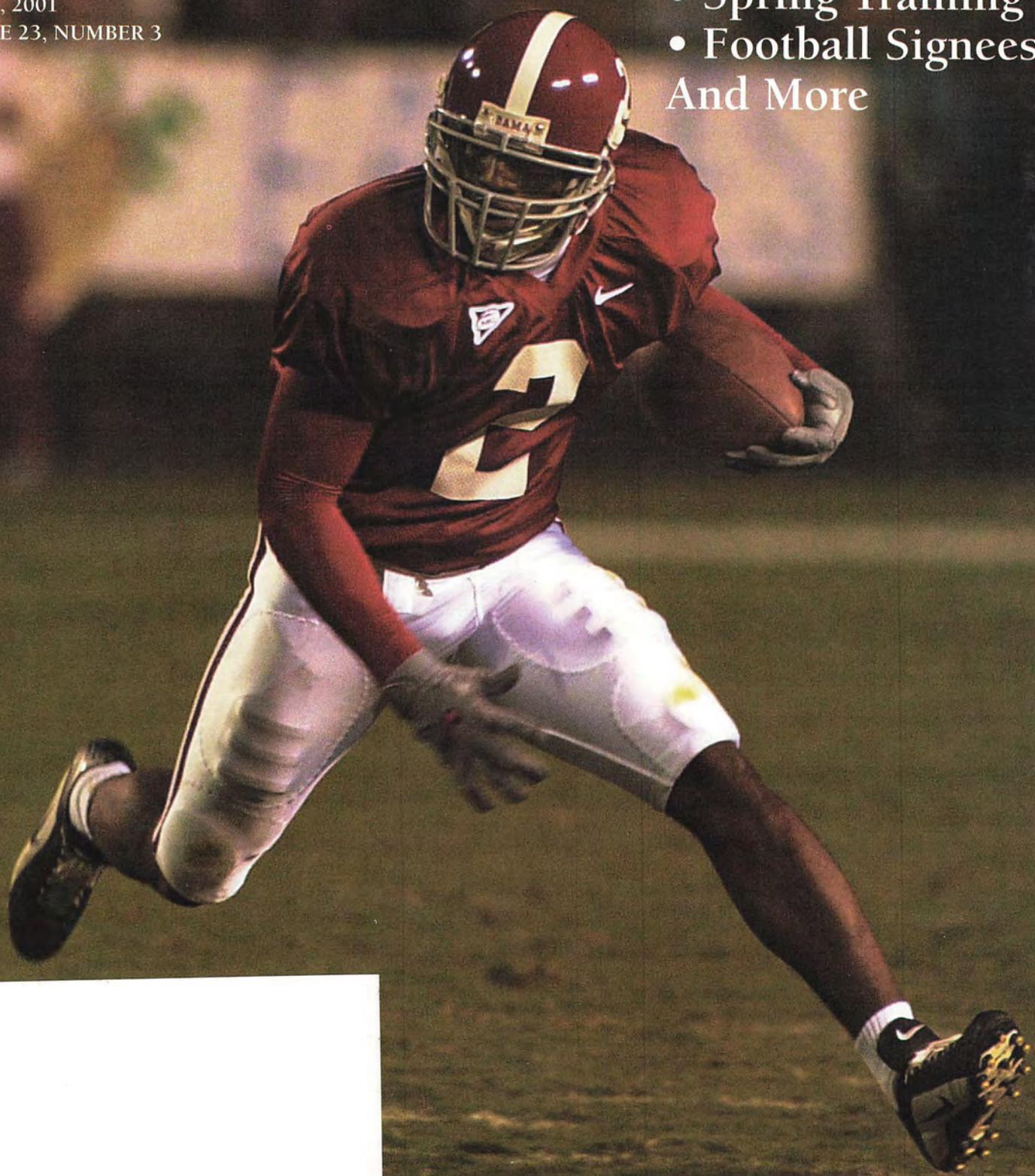
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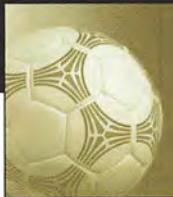
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MARCH, 2001
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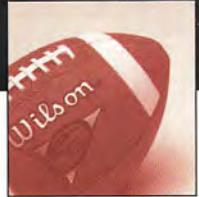
Inside:

- Spring Training
- Football Signees
- And More





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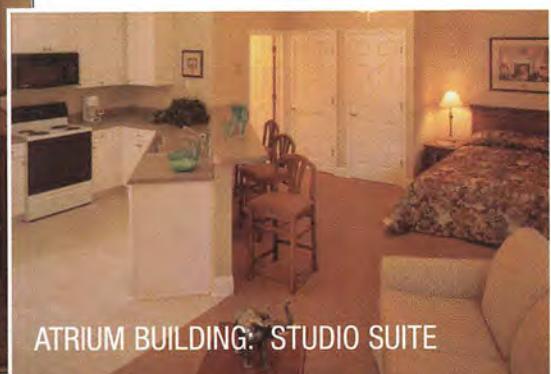
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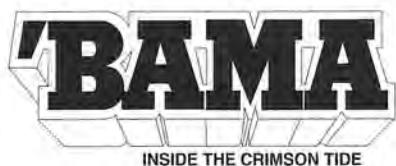
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FOOTBALL UPDATES

Daily updates (Selection 2) and Weekly updates (Selection 3)
will resume with spring practice starting Sunday, March 11

Daily updates by 8 p.m. CT after practices; Weekly updates by 8 p.m. Sundays

RECRUITING INFORMATION

Updates (Selection 5) by 8 p.m. CT Sundays

UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

Updates (Selection 4) within an hour of the completion of men's basketball
games and weekly updates by 8 p.m. CT Sundays

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On The Cover: Upcoming junior wide receiver Antonio Carter is one of the Crimson Tide offensive play-makers and this spring one of the goals of practice will be to make sure that play-makers get their hands on the football. The first spring training under Coach Dennis Franchione begins March 12 and concludes with the A-Day Game April 14. See Page 16. Barry Fikes Photo



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Football Notebook: Never A Dull Moment At Bama

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It seems as if something is always going on at Alabama insofar as the football program is concerned. New Head Coach Dennis Franchione has had his hands full in his first two months on the job.

by Kirk McNair



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Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Les Koenning works very close to Head Coach Dennis Franchione in developing the offensive game plan for the Crimson Tide football team. by J.E. Lisby



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Many believe that the best move Dennis Franchione made after being selected Crimson Tide head football coach was to go after and get Carl Torbush to be Bama's defensive coordinator. by J.E. Lisby



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Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione has a plan for everything, including the first spring practice he conducts at Alabama. Franchione has been in this position before in taking over a football team.

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Ginger Jones, who grew up close to The University of Alabama, was an All-America first baseman last year for the Crimson Tide softball team. She has high team goals for this season. by Jason Houston

Football Signees: First Group Pleases Franchione

23

In a transition year, expectations for a football recruiting class are not very high. New Tide Head Coach Dennis Franchione and his staff had other negatives to contend with, too. But in the end Franchione and his new coaches were happy with their first group of Tide signees. by Kirk McNair and Jay Lisby

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BAMA SCORECARD

Early Look At Prospects

It has long been a tradition that 'Bama brings Alabama football recruiting followers the first list of upcoming senior football players in the state of Alabama who are likely to be on the lists of top prospects next fall and winter.

Here, in alphabetical order, are 25 players to watch:

Zach Anderson, 6-3, 210, quarterback, Bay Minette Baldwin County; Larry Brackins, 6-5, 200, safety-linebacker, Dothan; Patrick Byrne, 6-2, 175, quarterback-placekicker, T.R. Miller of Brewton; Kenneth Darby, 5-11, 185, running back, Huntsville Butler; Curran Foose, 6-1, 205, linebacker, Mobile UMS-Wright; Lance Hamilton, 6-2, 170, wide receiver, Washington County of Chatom; Quinton Harris, 6-4, 320, defensive tackle, Courtland; Will Herring, 6-3, 195, quarterback, Opelika; Tyrone Hicks, 5-9, 165, cornerback, Huntsville Lee; Jarmonty Kimbrough, 5-10, 170, wide receiver-defensive back, Prichard Blount; Nic McKissic, 6-0, 202, running back, Phenix City Central; Larry McSwain, 6-2, 225, linebacker, Prichard Vigor;

Earnest Nance, 6-3, 215, linebacker, Courtland; James Newby, 6-7, 260, defensive end, Athens; Byron Oliver, 6-0, 215, running back, Jemison; Travis O'Neal, 6-1, 200, running back, Leeds; Ezell Rauls, 5-11, 200, running back, Tuscaloosa Central; Brock Reed, 6-4, 295, guard, Pisgah; Derrick Rodgers, 6-1, 190, running back, Evergreen Hillcrest; Titus Ryan, 6-2, 200, running back, Tuscaloosa County; Kevin Sears, 6-5, 200, safety, Russellville; Henry Smith, 6-4, 275, offensive tackle-defensive tackle, Aliceville; Josh Sutton, 6-6, 310, offensive tackle of Centre Cherokee County; Kyle Tatum, 6-7, 270, defensive tackle, Prattville; and Kevin Thornton, 6-7, 300, offensive tackle, Gadsden.

More "Football" Signees

In most of the world, soccer is known as football. And while the attention of most Crimson Tide fans was on Alabama football recruiting in February, The Bama women's soccer program increased its numbers by seven when head coach Don Staley received signatures from six high school seniors in addition to a transfer who is already enrolled at The University.

"We addressed the needs of our deficiencies from last season," said Staley. "We solidified our goalkeeper position for the next four years, we addressed the concern of goal scoring and offensive play, and we continued to add to our depth."

At the goalkeeping position, the Tide added transfer Courtney Rogers and high school seniors Laura Lowman and Brandy Garrison.

Garrison, from Montgomery, attends The Montgomery Academy. She plays club ball

for the Alabama Attack, which won the 2000 Club State Championship. She was also a member of the ODP team that participated in the Norway Cup in 1998 and finished fifth out of 128 teams.

Lowman, from Huntsville, attends Grissom High School, the alma mater of current Alabama standout Kim Zarzour. Lowman, who plays club ball for the Rocket City Kicks, brings size and athleticism to the team. "At six-feet tall, she is easily the tallest player on the team, and combined with her athleticism, she'll be tenacious in the nets," said Staley.

Alabama also signed play-makers Courtney McCotter of Shreveport, Louisiana; Katie Nirider of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Katie French of Copperas Cove, Texas; and defender Jiselle Decker of Yorktown, Virginia.

McCotter, who is a four-time all-district team member and Wendy's Heisman Award winner, is extremely versatile. She can help the Tide in the back defensively and can step up and score goals. Staley feels her diversity is what will help take the team to the next level.

Nirider was selected all-district her final three years in high school and was named team MVP in 1998. She ranked fifth in the state of Oklahoma in goals scored in 1998. "Katie (Nirider) is the front-runner and a goal scorer that we'll need this year," said Staley. "She continues to improve each time we see her and with that sort of commitment she will be nothing short of successful at Alabama."

French, who comes out of soccer rich Texas, is a great skill player with outstanding one-on-one ability. "Katie has outstanding skill and will add more offensive punch up front," said Staley. "She has incredible speed, ball skill and creativity."

Staley said that Decker's aggressiveness, flamboyance and dominant play will make her a crowd favorite. "Jiselle (Decker) is a competitor and plays at a high level of competition in Virginia," said Staley. "She was a highly recruited player and she will help anchor our defense."

The Crimson Tide has begun spring practice this week and was to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, February 23-24 to participate in the Memphis Fury Tournament.

Alabama will open its 2001 season on September 2 against the Tulane Green Wave.

All-Star Candidates

As the basketball season is nearing the final couple of weeks before conference tournaments and post-season tournament play, Alabama is making note of some players who should be considered for individual honors. There are no surprises among them.

Alabama's nominees include 6-8 sophomore guard Rod Grizzard of Birmingham, 6-8 forward Erwin Dudley of Uniontown, and 6-7 forward Gerald Wallace of Childersburg.

Grizzard has led the Southeastern Conference in scoring and in free throw percentage for most of the season. He also ranks among the league-leaders in three-point shooting. Grizzard is also capable of getting on the boards, as noted by his 11 rebounds against Kentucky, and blocking shots, such as the four he had against Ohio State.

Dudley has been the clear leader among SEC players in rebounding this season and has also ranked among the top ten players in scoring. He was second in the league in double-doubles (double figures in both scoring and rebounding in a game) with nine this year through the Ohio State game. He also ranks high in field goal percentage even though he does not often score on dunks. He was most valuable player in the Coors Classic and was named to the all-tournament team of the Puerto Rico Holiday Classic.

Last year a case could have been made that Grizzard, Dudley and fellow freshmen Terrance Meade (who led the league in three-point shooting) and Kenny Walker should all have been named to the Southeastern Conference All-Freshman Team. And none of them were. This year those four sophomores start along with either fellow sophomore Travis Stinnett or freshman forward Gerald Wallace to make Bama one of the nation's youngest basketball teams.

Wallace is being nominated by Alabama for inclusion on this year's All-SEC Freshman Team. Going into the February 17 Ohio State game, Wallace had 39 of Alabama's 60 dunks. He had scored 20 or more points four times with a high of 27 points. He was named SEC Player of the Week in December. Although he does not ordinarily start, he is usually into the game quickly.

Home Sweet Home

When Alabama defeated Ohio State, 85-67, it marked the 18th consecutive victory for the Alabama men's basketball team in Coleman Coliseum. It also ran the Tide's mark this season to 15-0, another Tide record. The streak stretches back to February 12, 2000. Bama has one home game remaining against Arkansas on February 28.

Alabama has had four teams with unbeaten records in Coleman Coliseum: 1971-72 (13-0), 1975-76 (12-0), 1977-78 (12-0), and 1988-89 (14-0).

Alabama's longest home winning streak in Coleman Coliseum is 22 consecutive games, from the last three games of the 1971 season through the first six games of the 1973 season.

On The Road

This year's Alabama women's basketball team has been solid at home, but even more impressive on the road, posting an 8-4 mark. The eight road victories is the second most of the Coach Rick Moody Era. In 1991-92

Alabama won ten times on the road. This is the fourth season Bama has won at least seven road games under Moody.

Women's Achievements

No one would suggest that this has been one of the best seasons in Alabama women's basketball history, but it has had its moments. For instance:

The Crimson Tide women's basketball team earned a sweep of cross-state rival Auburn with a 61-60 victory over the Tigers in Auburn on February 11. It was Bama's first sweep in the series since 1998. It also improved Head Coach Rick Moody's all-time record to 13-7 versus Auburn including three season sweeps in his 12-year career. (The teams have not always played each other twice in a year.)

Moody celebrated his 250th career victory as the Tide's head coach on February 1 with Bama's 74-69 win over Arkansas. The win assured the Tide of its 12th consecutive winning season and its 18th straight winning record at home. The Crimson Tide program celebrated a milestone victory just one game earlier as Alabama posted the 500th win in program history on January 28 with Bama's 67-64 victory at Ole Miss.

Close Calls

Alabama's 61-60 victory over Auburn improved the Tide's record to 6-0 this season in games decided by three points or less. Alabama has won three games by just one point including buzzer-beating shots against Mississippi State and Auburn (both on the road).

Baseball Watch

The 2001 Rotary Smith committee of Houston, Texas, has released a preliminary watch list of over 160 Division 1 college baseball players who are under consideration to become the winner of the 14th annual Rotary Smith Award, which will be handed out in Houston on June 28, and three Alabama players made the list. The preliminary watch list was compiled after submissions by the sports information personnel at all of the Division 1 baseball schools in the country. Additional nominations will be added to the list until the first round of voting begins in May.

The three University of Alabama baseball players among those on this year's preseason watch list are junior second baseman Brent Boyd, junior catcher Jeremy Brown and junior pitcher Lance Cormier.

Boyd has appeared in 127 games in his first two years at Alabama, compiling a .339 average with 21 home runs and 96 runs batted in. His best year came as a sophomore (2000), when he batted .360 with 15 home runs and 60 RBI, all career highs.

Brown appeared in 134 games in his first two seasons and has compiled a .335 average with 25 home runs and 118 RBI. As a freshman (1999), he batted .347 with 15 home runs and 68 RBI. The home runs and RBI were single-season Alabama freshman records.

Cormier has appeared in 53 games for the

Crimson Tide, primarily in relief, prior to this season. He has 42 appearances out of the pen, while starting 11 games. In those two years, Cormier is 10-8 with 15 saves and a 5.86 ERA. As a freshman (1999), he led the SEC with 11 saves.

Voting to determine the list of 12 semifinalists will begin near the end of April and the list will be announced at the conclusion of the regular season. Three finalists will be announced prior to the start of NCAA Super Regional Action, the week of June 1-3.

Now in its 14th year, the Rotary Smith Award is awarded each summer to the nation's top college baseball player. The award, a national project of the Rotary Club of Houston, raises money for Rotary national charities, Texas Children's Hospital and the Karl Young League.

Never Give Up

Among the most notable traits of Alabama baseball teams under Jim Wells (who is beginning his seventh season at Bama) has been the ability of those Tide squads to come from behind for victory. When Alabama turned in two come-from-behind victories over Oklahoma in a three-game sweep of the 18th ranked Sooners to start the season, it marked 127 times Bama baseball teams have rallied to win games in which the opponent had the lead.

Moreover, Alabama had one last-at-bat win against Oklahoma to mark the 60th time a Wells-coached Tide team has won in its last chance at the plate. The 61st such win came the following weekend as Alabama swept Miami of Ohio.

Just Perfect

Alabama softball pitcher Melissa Bautista pitched a no-hit shutout victory over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the Aggie Invitational at College Station, Texas, on February 16. Bautista struck out three and walked two in Alabama's 7-0 win in the seven-inning game. In the first inning she threw 13 pitches to one batter, finally getting the strikeout.

She retired the final 10 batters she faced.

The Crimson Tide of Coach Pat Murphy is off to a great start. Bama, which is ranked fifth in the nation in pre-season polls by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and by *USA Today*, won its own Bama Bash to start the season, then won the Texas A&M's Aggie Invitational. The Tide took five victories in each tournament to start the season 10-0. The previous best start in Bama history was last year when Alabama won its first seven games en route to a 66-14 record (the 66 wins being the most in the nation last year).

Perfect 10

The Alabama gymnastics team of Coach Sarah Patterson, ranked second in the nation, turned in its best score of the year February 16 as the Crimson Tide defeated its top rival, Georgia, before a crowd of over 8,500. Alabama scored a 197.5 in coming from behind in the last event of the night to beat the Bulldogs, who scored 197.35. The highlight of the meet was Tide junior Natalie Barrington scoring the first perfect 10 of her career on the uneven bars. Georgia, which had been the nation's only undefeated team, had its highest score of the year in defeat. Alabama's final rotation was floor exercise and the Tide set a school record of 49.7 to get the victory. Bama star Andree Pickens was the all-around winner with a score of 39.65.

Record-Setter

Anne Poleska joined the Alabama women's swimming and diving team in January and wasted little time in making an impact. She shattered the all-time Alabama and Alabama Aquatics Center records in the 200-yard breaststroke with a clocking of 2:11.72 in only her second meet. In her third meet she added the school and Aquatics Center records for the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:01.79. The Aquatics Center record had stood since 1983 when legendary swimmer Tracy Caulkins set the mark.

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Never A Dull Moment At Bama

by Kirk McNair

Franchione has had crisis after crisis since arriving

Whew! It looks like Dennis Franchione won't be going to Miami after all. Actually, Franchione, who took over as Alabama's head football coach on December 1, wasn't thinking about making a move. But because Miami's Butch Davis left the Hurricanes less than a week before signing day and because Franchione still had not signed his Alabama contract at that time, the conspiracy theorists put two and two together and came up with...bzzzt...wrong answer.

But that is one of only a handful of off-the-field situations keeping Alabama football in the headlines.

In addition to working out the final details of his contract, Franchione also had to rework his coaching staff following Signing Day. And, of course, there is always the NCAA situation.

In late November, Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore and Franchione, then head football coach at TCU, came to an agreement that Franchione would become the new head coach at Alabama. For a variety of reasons, it took a while to work out all the terms of the agreement, get them on paper, and have the contract approved by the Board of Trustees. But when it was done, the length (seven years) and the annual compensation package (\$1.1 million) were exactly as had been agreed upon some three months ago.

Some radio talk show hosts (generally speaking the most uninformed of all media) were reportedly suggesting that Franchione might never coach at Alabama because of a contract impasse. Neither Franchione nor Moore believed there would be a problem in getting a contract finalized. At the time it was announced that the parties had come to an agreement, Franchione said, in answer to a question, "There really weren't any sticking points. After all, it wasn't like the lawyers worked on it every day."

Franchione is represented by one of the best in the business, Craig Kelly of Columbia, South Carolina. And Kelly had nothing but praise for his counterpart, University Attorney Sandy Gordon. The two were able to get together only occasionally, which accounted for part of the delay. Additionally, it was Kelly's first time to work for Franchione.



Ron Case



Lee Fobbs

"I was never concerned about it," Franchione said. "People just thought there were problems because it took that much time."

There was another little stir when at the time of the announcement it was revealed that Franchione had not actually signed the agreement because it had not been approved by the Board of Trustees. Then it was reported that the Trustees (actually, only the Compensation Committee of the Board) would not be able to act on the matter at its next meeting.

Still, Trustee John McMahon assured the *Tuscaloosa News* that the contract would sail through the approval process. "If it takes more than five minutes, I'll buy you a steak in San Francisco," McMahon told the reporter. Surprisingly, the matter did reach the Board at its next meeting and was approved after about a minute of discussion.

When Franchione came to Alabama, he brought all but two of his TCU assistants with him. One, Defensive Coordinator Gary Patterson, became head coach of the Horned Frogs. The other, Running Backs Coach Mike Schultz elected to stay with Patterson as TCU offensive coordinator.

Franchione hired Carl Torbush, who had just been released as head coach at North Carolina, to be his defensive coordinator. That may have precipitated the loss of Mark Parks, who had been the linebackers coach at TCU. Parks came to Alabama with Franchione expecting to be named defensive coordinator. Not only did Parks not get that job, Torbush coaches linebackers, Parks' po-

sition. Additional pressure may have forced Parks to take a leave of absence through much of January. Franchione and Parks were charged by former players under them at TCU with racial discrimination. Although that complaint was universally dismissed as having no basis, those close to Parks say it affected him severely. Eventually it was agreed that Parks would not return to Alabama.

Franchione had dipped into Torbush's former staff to get a running backs coach, Ken Rucker. Rucker would stay only a few weeks. The timing of his departure kindled more speculation of improper activity. Franchione's first recruiting class appeared to be stronger than expected in part because of the commitment of one of the nation's top runners, Derek Farmer of Tyler, Texas. However, just before signing day there were reports that Farmer was wavering, perhaps considering TCU because it was closer to his home. On Wednesday Farmer said geography was a factor, but he didn't sign with TCU. He went to Texas A&M. "It was disappointing, but those things happen sometimes," Franchione said.

The next day it was announced that Rucker had accepted a job as running backs coach at Texas A&M. Understandably, there were suspicions that Rucker might have influenced Farmer to go to Texas A&M even while Rucker was at Alabama. Almost certainly that was not true. Rucker, 50, had previously coached at Texas A&M and is very close to retirement in Texas. He would have to work 10 years in Alabama for retirement benefits.

With the departures of Parks and Rucker,

Franchione again had to fill two spots on his coaching staff. He selected Ron Case to coach safeties and Lee Fobbs to coach running backs.

"We are happy to have these new coaches on our staff," said Franchione. "Both are veterans of the coaching profession. Ron has 13 years of coaching experience in the SEC and Lee has SEC experience, too."

"Coaching at Alabama is the type job you coach all our life to get a shot at," Case said. "The last stop in my coaching career may be the best in my career. I'm very familiar with the SEC. It's home territory for me. I was with Carl (Torbush) at Ole Miss for four years and at North Carolina five years, so we know we can work together."

Fobbs, who comes to Alabama from Baylor, spent two seasons at LSU.

"I'm very happy to have the opportunity to work at Alabama and for Coach Franchione," Fobbs said. "The atmosphere at Alabama is unbelievable. I thank the Lord for allowing me to be a part of this program."

Case is credited with bringing an aggressive, man-to-man coverage scheme to the North Carolina secondary. He helped fashion defenses that finished second in the nation both in 1996 and 1997. Case's secondary unit played a large role in that success and his teams led their respective conferences in pass efficiency defense for three consecutive seasons from 1995-97 (including one season at LSU).

Under Case's tutelage, cornerback Dre Bly became the most decorated football player in North Carolina history and among the most honored players in ACC annals. Bly is the only football player in ACC history to earn first-team All-America honors in three different seasons. Bly set the all-time ACC record with 20 interceptions.

In 1996-97, Carolina intercepted 38 passes and allowed just 15 passing touchdowns in 24 games. Carolina allowed only 209.3 total yards per game in 1997, the lowest figure allowed by an ACC defense since 1963.

Case went to Carolina from LSU, where the Tigers were first in the SEC in pass defense in 1995. He spent six years each at Vanderbilt and Ole Miss and coached Torbush at Carson-Newman.

He spent 13 years in the U.S. Marines after high school and played 11 years of football in the Corps. In 1969, while an undergraduate, he was the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Carson-Newman.

In 1977, he coached defensive backs at West Texas State. The Buffaloes won the Missouri Valley title behind a defense that led the league in every statistical category. West Texas picked off 22 passes that year.

He was the head coach at his alma mater in 1978-79 and the assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Richmond from 1980-82.

Fobbs spent four seasons at Baylor, two of which were spent in charge of the Bears' de-

fensive tackles. Fobbs joined the Baylor program for the 1997 season, taking the position of running backs coach for two seasons. When Kevin Steele became Baylor's coach following the 1998 campaign, Fobbs moved to the defensive side of the ball.

Fobbs, 50, coached outside linebackers at Minnesota in 1996 prior to his stint at Baylor. He spent the 1995 season at Southern Mississippi, where he worked primarily with offensive tackles and tight ends. Prior to that, he coached defensive ends at LSU from 1994-95, wide receivers at Tulane from 1991-94 and the defensive line at Northeast Louisiana from 1989-91.

Fobbs joined the college coaching ranks after a highly successful stint as a high school coach. From 1985-89, he was the head football coach and athletic director at Carroll High School in Monroe, Louisiana. From 1975-85 he was the offensive coordinator at Wossman High School in Monroe, where he also served as head track coach.

Fobbs graduated from Grambling State University in 1973 with a health and physical education degree. He earned All-SWAC and All-America honors as a senior while playing for legendary coach Eddie Robinson.

An eighth-round draft choice of the Buffalo Bills, Fobbs played professionally for the Canadian Football League's Ottawa Rough Riders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

He also played for the Detroit Wheels and Birmingham Stallions in the United States Football League.

Following his pro career, Fobbs returned to Grambling, where he was a graduate assistant under Robinson in 1975. He earned a master's degree in sports administration at Grambling in 1976.

Fobbs' son, Jamaal, is a running back at Oklahoma State.

Unquestionably, the biggest item on The University plate is the NCAA probe into Alabama football. While The University has not yet received a preliminary letter of inquiry, everyone believes that is just a matter of time. Indeed, most wish it would hurry up and arrive so that Alabama officials would finally have a starting point. And as best can be determined, no school ever got a preliminary letter without later receiving an official letter, and University officials need that, too, to know exactly what the charges are going to be.

It is likely to Alabama's benefit that The University has cooperated fully with the NCAA investigation. Indeed, it is likely that much, if not all, of the NCAA probe is based on items self-reported by Alabama. Gene Marsh, who is faculty chairman of athletics, and Marie Robbins, who is associate athletics director for compliance, have well-

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earned reputations for diligence.

There is no reason to believe that the NCAA enforcement staff will be anything less than fair. In Alabama football's previous brush with the NCAA in the early 1990s, the enforcement staff was ready to sign off on Alabama's program. It had found two violations, but said the findings were that violations were "inadvertent and non-systemic." However, the Infractions Committee, which is not staff, refused to allow Alabama to reach a summary disposition with the enforcement staff. It was that committee, using primarily a charge of lack of institutional control which it later had to refute and apologize for, that gave Alabama unprecedented and inexplicable penalties.

If there is a current concern with the NCAA enforcement staff it is that the probe, presumably one that should be confidential, has been so public.

Because so many media outlets have been able to get information about the investigation, it is generally believed that Alabama and the NCAA are trying to determine the facts regarding a number of situations. They include:

The most publicized, and seemingly impossible, story that Head Football Coach Lynn Lang and his then assistant, Milton Kirk, of Memphis Trezevant High School were selling the services of their players, and that Alabama interests paid \$200,000 to the coaches to secure Albert Means. Means signed with Alabama, played last season, then transferred at mid-term to his hometown school, Memphis.

The recruitment of other players in the Memphis area, including Kindal Moorehead of Melrose High School.

The recruitment and academic concerns regarding Harold James of Osceola, Arkansas.

Academic questions regarding Michael Gaines of Tallahassee, Florida, who signed with Alabama but was not admitted by The University, even though he made it through the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Questions about Alabama signees Santonio Beard of Nashville, Tennessee, Gerard Clark of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Mac Tyler of Bessemer, all of whom attended Milford Academy in Connecticut to gain academic eligibility. Beard played for Bama in 1999 but was redshirted last year with injuries. Clark was on the squad last fall, but did not play. Tyler was at Milford last fall and was signed for the second time this February. He still has some work to do to gain eligibility.

Whether Justin Smiley's parents gave him a truck or if he got it for signing with Alabama.

Undetermined questions into issues raised by the transfers of three former players, Travis Carroll (to Florida) and Chris Reier (to Jacksonville), both of Jacksonville, Florida, and Eric Locke (to Tennessee) of

2001 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 1	UCLA	Tuscaloosa	Tied, 1-1
Sept. 8	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Alabama leads, 56-19-4
Sept. 15	Southern Miss	Birmingham	Alabama leads, 29-6-2
Sept. 22	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 7-4-0
Sept. 29	South Carolina	Columbia	Alabama leads, 10-0-0
Oct. 6	Texas-El Paso	Birmingham	First Meeting
Oct. 13	Mississippi	Oxford	Alabama leads, 39-7-2
Oct. 20	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-34-7
Nov. 3	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 42-17-5
Nov. 10	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 67-15-3
Nov. 17	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama leads, 37-27-1
Dec. 1	TBA	Atlanta	Alabama has 2-3 record

Tentative 2002 Tide Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Aug. 31	TBA	Birmingham
Sept. 7	Oklahoma	Norman
Sept. 14	North Texas State	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 21	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 28	Arkansas	Fayetteville
Oct. 5	Georgia	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 19	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 26	Tennessee	Knoxville
Nov. 2	Vanderbilt	Nashville
Nov. 9	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 16	LSU	Baton Rouge
Nov. 23	Auburn	Tuscaloosa
Dec. 7	SEC Championship Game	Atlanta

Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

The activities of various Alabama boosters involved in recruiting parties or in loans to families of prospects.

The once-proud Birmingham News is not having a good year with this story. Twice the News has trumpeted that the NCAA investigation of Alabama has been "widened." Actually, it was just a matter of its reporters catching up on old news. The first time the newspaper had the NCAA expanding its investigation was to report that information had been sought on the recruitment of James and of Gaines. The report was not as damning as the headline. In fact, the story quoted the principal at Osceola High School and the guidance counselor at Florida High School as saying there had been no inappropriate activity.

The newspaper also gave readers a chuckle when it repeatedly quoted Milton Kirk, the former coach at Memphis Trezevant who has claimed he was part of a scheme to "sell" the services of player Means. However, when Kirk said that the newspaper had misquoted him on the confusing matter of who knew what and when, the News ran a story that Kirk's credibility was questionable.

It was not the only time the Birmingham News had problems with its coverage. The

newspaper's top story on Sunday, February 18, claimed that the NCAA investigation was growing wider. It concerned questions about players attending Milford Academy in Connecticut, questions that were actually asked months ago, but were just discovered by the newspaper. The story noted that the school does not give full scholarships, that the cost of attending is \$19,000 per year, and that Tyler, "who now lives in public housing in Bessemer," had attended the school. The next day the newspaper, in a story far less prominent, said that the coach at Milford Academy did indeed give full scholarships and that Tyler had received one.

Coverage by the Birmingham News has been embarrassingly poor. The sports editor of the newspaper wrote that because there were allegations, there must be some truth to them. And, he added, Alabama officials knew that Alabama was breaking rules.

Still, the problem is not with the newspaper. The problem for Alabama is how much damage will be done to the football program. One recruiting season has already been severely damaged and it now appears likely the investigation will extend at least partly into another. And that's before the official penalties, if any, are assessed by the NCAA.

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Koenning Experienced On Offense

by J.E. Lisby

He works with Coach Fran to develop offensive plan

Given Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione's reputation as an offensive genius, there's the suggestion that holding the title of offensive coordinator under him is a mixed blessing, akin to being the principal sparring partner for boxing champion Lennox Lewis. No matter how good you may be, few will ever know it. But Les Koenning, who sports the title of quarterbacks coach in addition to his coordinator designation, handles the situation with good humor. "If you talk to Coach Fran about the arrangement, he'll explain how it works," Koenning said. "All the good plays, he called. The ones that don't work belong to me. At least that's what he told me."

As an experienced assistant with numerous coaching stops during his career, Koenning understands what the title "head coach" means. "All the offensive coaches work well together," Koenning said. "But there's only one boss. And that's Coach Franchione. As assistant coaches, our job is to work together to get things done. There's not one person bigger than another person. We all work together; we all have good ideas; but everything goes through Coach Fran."

Generally speaking, the position coaches work at recruiting more than either coordinator. While the other assistants are on the telephones with high school athletes, Koenning and Carl Torbush (Alabama's defensive coordinator) are breaking down film, evaluating players, and compiling team statistics. For example, it will be Koenning's responsibility to assign a grade to every offensive player based on film from the previous week, while also calculating the numbers that will be used to assess the offense's performance. Numbers don't lie, and the statistics will illustrate clearly the areas where the team needs to improve.

Following the lead of all successful chief executives, Franchione understands the benefits of selecting talented assistants and then delegating responsibility to them. While Franchione keeps a watchful eye on the organization of his entire program, there are only so many hours in a day, and it's part

of a coordinator's job to make certain that precious minutes are not wasted. "During the season the coordinators will watch all the film," Koenning said. "I'll handle offense, and Carl will handle defense. We'll assign a grade for every kid. While the position coaches are out on the road recruiting, we have to make sure everything is organized for Coach. His time is limited. He can't walk in that room and say, 'What's this?' I have to be able to show him the breakdown on all the film and all the statistical stuff as well."

"That's part of my job as coordinator, to organize everything for him, to put everything together so that when Coach Fran comes into our meeting, we can present the information to him quickly, so he can see where we are."

In addition to the film work and the task of evaluating player performance, Koenning helps organize offensive staff meetings and practices. An equally important aspect of his job is helping formulate the offensive game plan with Coach Franchione. "During the season we sit down together as a staff early in the morning with Coach," Koenning said. "On any given day, we usually work from about seven until about 11 at night. We'll watch film and organize practices in the morning, and in the evenings we're breaking down our opponent. Plus, we're formulating the game plan the whole time."

"Later in the week I'll sit down with Coach Fran and we'll write up the game plan—what we want to run in specific situations. We do that while the other coaches are making their recruiting calls. Then they come back in, and if they have ideas we'll include them. But Coach Fran and I will sit there and go through it individually, handling the basic operations of the offense."

Franchione's history is to give a freer rein to his defensive coordinator, a pattern demonstrated with Gary Patterson while at TCU and expected to continue with Torbush. But his natural inclination to participate more on offense requires that he and Koenning work well together. "Really, we have a great working relationship," Koenning said. "We're on the same page. He's a good man. He coaches fairly, and he treats people fairly."

When it comes to evaluating head coaches, Koenning has more experience than most. Since beginning his career after graduating from Texas, Koenning has served under numerous head coaches, including Ray Perkins, Rocky Felker, Fred Goldsmith and Jimmy Johnson. He counts them all as mentors who taught him about his profes-

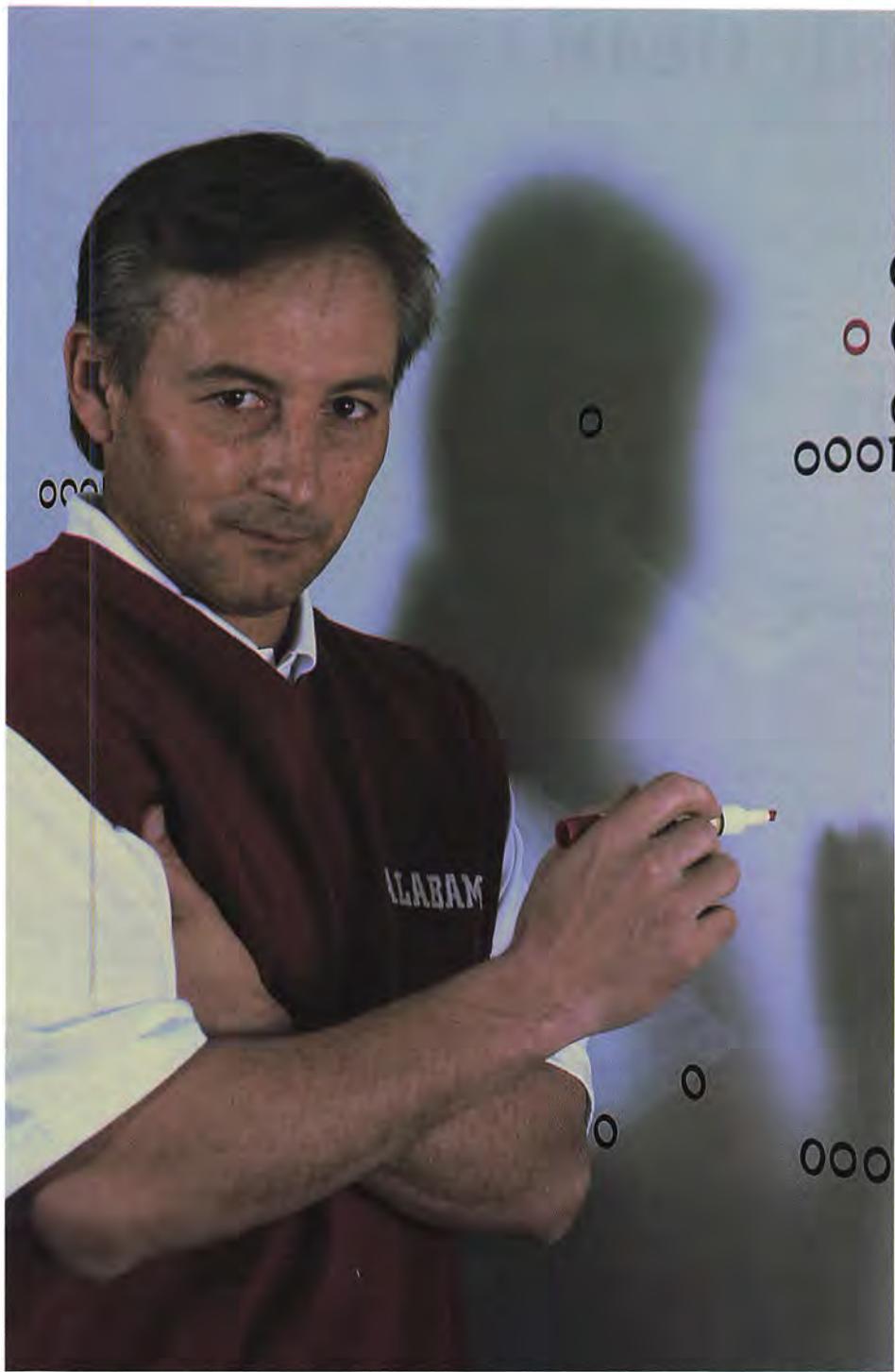
sion, but Koenning is especially glad to be on staff with Franchione. "It's a great experience, and I really enjoy working with him," Koenning said. "The traditions he instills in his players and the way he works with them is outstanding. He's very organized."

"Every one of his assistants would have come with him (from TCU), and that tells you a lot about the man. Just watch the way he handles himself as a head coach. Watch the way the kids enjoy playing for him. And he really has a great way with his staff as well. You'll see his organization. Those are things you enjoy being around as an assistant coach. He's a very demanding coach, but rewarding, too."

Prior to joining Franchione's staff at TCU, Koenning had served college coaching stints at Houston, Texas A&M, Duke, Rice, Mississippi State and Southwest Louisiana, not including a short time working with Jimmy Johnson on the Miami Dolphins. With a wife and family, Koenning would hardly have planned that many moves, but such is the life of a college assistant coach. "In our profession you see a lot of change," Koenning said. "You win a bunch, and you move. You lose a bunch, and you move. But when you have an opportunity to be around a winner like Coach Franchione, you have to take it."

Actually, this is Koenning's second tour of duty in Tuscaloosa. Almost 20 years ago, as a fresh college graduate, his father gave him some advice that shaped his professional life. "I had also been offered a job with a smaller Baptist school in Texas," Koenning said. "But my dad told me, 'You don't get many chances to go to The University of Alabama. It would be a great opportunity for you.' So I took the job, and it was a great step for me."

His time spent as a graduate assistant under Ray Perkins was brief, but it was enough to excite him when Coach Franchione approached his TCU staff in late November with the news that Tide Athletics Director Mal Moore had come calling. "All he said initially was we may have the opportunity to go to The University of Alabama to coach football," Koenning said. "Coach Fran had a smile on his face, because it was a great opportunity. Certainly, it was very appealing to me. Being raised in the South and being from this part of the country, this is one of the places you really picture being a coach. Alabama has always had a mystique and tradition. As a player, football here at The University of Alabama can't be compared to any other place you can think of."



Les Koenning is making his second tour at Alabama. His father's advice to accept a position of graduate assistant coach under Ray Perkins in the early 1980s helped determine Koenning's profession as a college football coach.

Barry Fikes Photo

To have that opportunity to coach here was—and is—a great gift to my career. Think of the mystique of Alabama and its traditions. That's college football."

Koenning's experiences coaching throughout the South have given him a deep appreciation for the Crimson Tide and what it stands for, but in the process he has also gained a wealth of experience coaching of-

fensive football. "In my career, I've coached quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and tight ends," Koenning said. "Basically, on offense, I've coached everything but the offensive line, so I've had the opportunity to do it all. Plus, I was a coordinator at Duke and at Houston. And last year I was co-coordinator with Coach Fran at TCU. So I've done this before."

Along with his other administrative roles, game days will find Koenning perched in the press box, relaying information to Franchione and assisting with the play-calling duties. "We spend so much time together in meetings that we know each other's mind," Koenning said. "We're on the same page. The whole thing about being successful is working together. There are times when Coach Fran calls them all, and there are times when I will interject and call some of them. But I think the important thing is moving the football team and having the opportunity to win."

Koenning's other major responsibility is tutoring quarterbacks. "Our job is to teach our quarterbacks exactly what we're trying to get out of each situation," Koenning said. "The biggest thing is getting them to the point where they understand the offense and can make plays. The cliché about a quarterback being a coach on the field is real. We're trying to get the pieces of the puzzle to fit together. At times the quarterback will have to change the play, and he'll have to make reads and progressions. You spend hours preparing, so by the time you get on the field the game seems slow to him. Then his natural abilities can come out."

And for Tide fans concerned about a quarterbacking corps that at times last season seemed to have lost its confidence, Koenning offers this, "You want your football team to play with confidence, but it's a team game. You win as a football team. The quarterback gets far too much credit when you win and far too much criticism when you lose. But if a kid is playing with confidence, then good things can happen. Make plays on the field, and you'll gain confidence from your colleagues. Confidence isn't something that's given to you, it's something you earn."

So far, Koenning and his fellow coaches have worked hard to earn the confidence of Bama fans deeply disappointed by the poor performance of the previous staff. He was one of the coaches that traveled with Franchione to Tuscaloosa to get an early jump on recruiting when Alabama first announced its new coaching staff. So Koenning knows better than most that times have been rough at The Capstone for the last two months.

Nevertheless, his outlook remains positive. "The key thing to remember about Alabama is the tradition," Koenning said. "Whatever is happening at The University of Alabama, the tradition remains great. In the state of Alabama, there's Crimson Tide football and then there's the off season, which is pretty impressive to a football coach. That amount of attention is a tribute to the fans. As we would say in our profession, the fans in Alabama have their priorities right."

Torbush Will Head Up Defense

by J. E. Lisby

Former North Carolina head coach has reputation as great defensive mind

In short time, Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione has given the Tide family many reasons to be pleased. Fans welcome his calm public manner. His insistence on discipline while strongly emphasizing the off-season conditioning program drew immediate applause. And the way he and his staff managed to salvage a recruiting class was duly noted. But perhaps his most popular move so far occurred within the first few weeks of his tenure, when Franchione hired Carl Torbush as defensive coordinator.

During halftime ceremonies of the Alabama-Auburn men's basketball game in Tuscaloosa, Franchione and his staff were introduced. After basking in a rock-star welcome himself, Coach Fran introduced his assistants to the crowd with each in turn being greeted by enthusiastic applause. The already-loud decibel level went up noticeably at the mention of Torbush's name.

Proving the sophistication of Alabama football fans, the audience was acknowledging Torbush's stellar reputation. "The response from the crowd was exciting," Torbush said. "Of course the basketball team had a lot to do with the crowd being there, but it was a thrill to hear that. It made me feel appreciated. I know that I'll have a long honeymoon—so long as we don't give up a touchdown, of course."

Like his head coach, Torbush arrives in Tuscaloosa with impeccable coaching credentials, though no direct ties to Alabama. However, the nightmare that passed for a 2000 Bama season, means that Tide fans will not view that as a problem. "Really, we're coming in here at an ideal time," Torbush said. "There have not been many 3-8s in the history of Alabama football. In this business at this level with the amount of money and all the people involved, it's real simple: the results are how many you win and lose. I understand that, and hopefully we can get the program back to where it's supposed to be."

And Torbush points out that part of the history that Tide fans hope to regain would involve a return to dominating defensive

play. "Alabama has been known for phenomenal defense for as long as I've been alive," he said. "When you think of defense, you think of Alabama and some of the great defensive coaches that have come through here. I'm real excited about being at Alabama and being a part of the Crimson Tide tradition."

Before coming to Alabama, Torbush served as head coach at North Carolina for three years, taking over when Mack Brown left the Tar Heels to become head coach at Texas. The reviews on Torbush's tenure as a head coach were mixed. However, his reputation as defensive coordinator is unquestioned. During his last three seasons as defensive coordinator (1995-97), North Carolina led the Atlantic Coast Conference in total defense and in both 1996 and 1997 the Tar Heels were listed in the Top five nationally in every defensive category.

"We had some great defenses at North Carolina," Torbush said. "But I'd be crazy if I said it was all great coaching. Number one, you've got to do a great job recruiting. Athletic ability is very important, but you need to include character and work habits. I learned a long time ago that great players make great coaches, good players make good coaches, and bad players make fired coaches. I don't think I've changed much as a coach. I've been a great defensive coach when I've had great players."

Torbush and his fellow Tide coaches will continue the process of recruiting great players. In the meantime, Torbush's 2001 defense will be based primarily on what he inherited. "The well is not dry," Torbush said. "I've had the opportunity to watch the off-season program, and there's no question that we have some athletes. Depth will be a factor, but it's a factor for everybody in the country. I've seen good feet. The athleticism is there. There's no question we need to get bigger and stronger, and we will. I think Ben Pollard (strength and conditioning coach for football) and the rest of his staff have done a great job in getting our players to believe in what we're doing. The work ethic has been good, and I think the athletes have responded very well. Right now what they need is success."

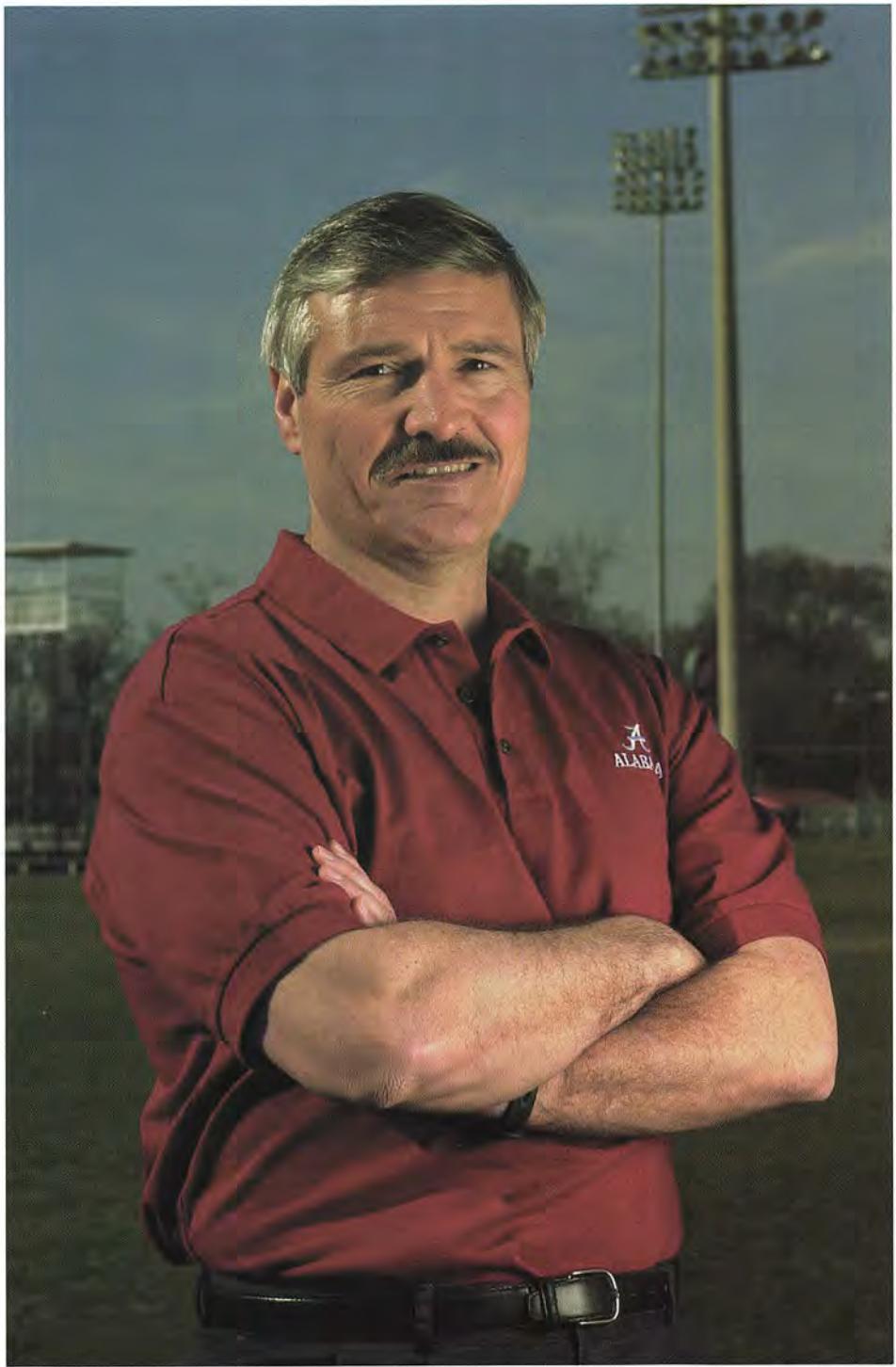
As Torbush has noted, after an embarrassing campaign in which Alabama began ranked among the nation's elite only to plunge to a losing record, the current Tide players yearn for success. But more impor-

tantly, he also understands that Tide fans don't simply wish for victories—they demand them. "The thing about The University of Alabama is the tradition is so strong," Torbush said. "Coach (Gene) Stallings used to say, 'The fans expect greatness, but what's wrong with that?' All of us aspire to be the best we can be. That's one reason I like Tuscaloosa. There is no doubt of the passion for football here."

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, he grew up in North Carolina and attended Carson-Newman, where he starred at linebacker and on the baseball diamond. Following college, Torbush played professional baseball, while also coaching on the high school level. After a stint as a graduate assistant at Baylor (1975), he moved to Southeastern Louisiana (1976-79) where he was head coach in baseball and an assistant with the football team. "Baseball was the game I loved," he said. "But my career went the other way."

Torbush next moved to Louisiana Tech where he spent four years as assistant head coach, before moving on to Ole Miss as defensive coordinator (1983-86). During these early years Billy Brewer was both head coach and mentor to him, and during Torbush's last year with Brewer Ole Miss led the SEC in defense. He next returned to Louisiana Tech for the 1987 season as head coach before joining Mack Brown's staff at North Carolina in 1988. "I grew up in North Carolina, and when I had the opportunity to go back it was a no-brainer," Torbush said. "I was at North Carolina for 13 years, 10 as defensive coordinator and three as head coach. Really, I've only coached for two guys. I coached for Billy Brewer for 12 years at Southeastern and at Ole Miss. Then I coached for Mack Brown for 10 years."

Unlike many long-time college assistants, Torbush hasn't had to work for that many head coaches. And when he was let go by North Carolina after going 16-18 over three years, the veteran defensive coordinator was not about to take just any job. "When I lost the job at North Carolina, I decided three things," Torbush said. "Number one, I was going to work for a good man who was a winner. Number two, I wanted to work with good people. And the third thing was to work at a quality place. I wanted to stay in the South, and frankly there were only two or three places I would have wanted to coach. The good Lord took care of me, and here I am."



Carl Torbush, 49, had good reasons for agreeing to become Alabama's new defensive coordinator under Dennis Franchione. He wants to be a part of the Crimson Tide's return to greatness. Torbush will also coach Crimson Tide linebackers.

Barry Fikes Photo

Torbush has reason to consider Divine Intervention as having played a part. Franchione expected Gary Patterson, his defensive coordinator at TCU, to accompany him to Tuscaloosa and continue in that role. However, a late change of direction by the TCU administration handed the vacated

head-coaching job to Patterson, leaving Franchione without a coordinator. But the next night, at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes banquet no less, a mutual acquaintance mentioned to Franchione that Torbush might be interested in the job, setting the move in motion.

A telephone call was followed quickly by an airplane ride to Tuscaloosa. And after an afternoon-long job interview, the deal was done. "I was on the plane Tuesday morning; Wednesday he offered me the job, and Thursday I accepted it," Torbush said. "I really didn't know Fran that well personally, but I knew his reputation. We sat and talked that first day for about four and a half hours and then I toured the facilities before making up my mind.

"What intrigued me about Fran was to see where he started and where he's coached. I saw the success he's had throughout his career. He's worked very hard and been a winner at every stop. He treats people right, and he's very well respected by coaches and players, which is one of the things that attracted me."

The move was perfect from the other side as well. Beyond his talent as a head coach, Franchione has earned a reputation on offense, preferring to entrust his defensive coordinator with wide latitude in developing and running the defense. "My philosophy is to get some strong, quick guys inside that can beat a double team," Torbush said. "On the edge you like to have a taller, sleeker athlete with a long arm span that can get around a guy to knock passes down. And you want outside linebackers that can run like safeties. The name of the game in college football is speed. If you can't run, then it's hard to play. First you look for guys that are fast; then you want to see guys that are just relentless.

"In football today, the biggest thing is the athletes need to be able to run. If you look at offenses, there are so many people running four- and five-wides. I can have the greatest coach in the world, but if you run a 4.4 (40-yard dash) and I run a 4.8, I can be perfect and it still won't be good enough. There's no question that speed is paramount."

In addition to his job as defensive coordinator, Torbush will coach Tide linebackers.

Aside from being an excellent coach, Torbush's easy-going, down-home personality helps keep him grounded, letting the veteran coach find humor even in criticism. When news of his hiring at Alabama first leaked, one Internet expert posted that Torbush was just another "read and react" coordinator. Torbush had a classic response. "I 'read' that and 'reacted' to it," Torbush said. "I'm not one to brag very much, but you don't 'read and react' and end up leading the league in sacks for five years. The name of the game is pressuring the quarterback. If you don't, you're in trouble. You've got to have the ability to cover the wide receivers and sack the quarterback. If you're not able to do that, then it's hard to be a real good defense in today's game of football."

The Process Of Rebuilding Begins

by Kirk McNair

Franchione doesn't expect to see "a bad team"

There are those who think that spring football practice should be abolished, that it doesn't serve much purpose and it denies players time away from the sport. There may be a handful of football coaches who agree. Most players would. But not many Alabama players would want to miss the opportunity they have this spring. And a new

Crimson Tide coaching staff surely feels the need to have its team on the field before making plans for August pre-season practices.

New Bama Head Coach Dennis Franchione said "This will be a physical spring practice." He said it has ordinarily been his practice to have more physical work in the spring than in pre-season camp in order to guard against injuries that could cost game time. But, he said, this spring will be even more physical than a normal Franchione-planned practice in order to see how the players respond.

Franchione said, "We want it to be competitive because we want the players to show us they are competitors."

Spring practice is no longer the seemingly never-ending days of blood and guts drudgery. Even when it was only 20 days long, it was 20 days of full contact if that's what the coaching staff wanted. NCAA rules allow 15 practice days, three of which are total non-contact and only four of which (including the spring game) can be full gear, predominantly 11-on-11 scrimmage-type practices.

Alabama spring practice this year is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 12. The Tide will have seven practices (normal practice days will be Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) before The University's spring break, March 24-April 1. Drills will resume April 2 and conclude with the A-Day Game at Bryant-Denny Stadium on Saturday, April 14.

Franchione said goal one this spring will be to identify and evaluate players. He said, "We want to identify our 22 best players, then the next 22 best, and so on. Then," he said, "we need to identify the play-makers on both sides of the ball." Franchione said that one of the best things about his previous teams has been to "identify the play-makers and get the ball to them." He said that getting the ball to play-makers would become "more specific" in the fall.

Beyond that, Franchione said, "We'll need to install the foundation of our offense, defensive and special teams to the point we can build on it in two-a-days during fall camp up until the first game. We'll give them a little bit of everything."

One goal of the Dennis Franchione offensive game plan will be to get the football into the hands of play-makers like wide receiver Freddie Milons, who was far less a factor for the Tide in 2000 than he had been in Bama's championship season in 1999.

Barry Fikes Photo





Saleem Rasheed has all the tools to be an all-star linebacker, and he'll have his first opportunity to demonstrate his ability to the Alabama coaching staff when spring training gets under way on March 12. The Tide staff will not look at past films in an attempt to judge Tide players. Barry Fikes Photo

While those are somewhat technical duties for the coaching staff, there is also a need for an attitude adjustment, Franchione said. He wants his players to develop esprit de corps and physical and mental toughness. He also said there are three types of relationships to be nurtured—player to coach, player to player, and coach to coach. Because the players have been together and because most of the coaching staff has been together, the relationship that needs most to be addressed is player to coach, Franchione said. "It's the most important," he said. "And it takes time. It doesn't happen in 15 practices." The building of the player-coach relationship was begun in the off-season program and in the academic rules put in place by the coaching staff, and will be a process that extends into next season, Franchione said.

Something of a surprise on its face is that Alabama will begin spring practice without a depth chart. However, that fits with Franchione's pledge that everyone starts with a clean slate.

"Someone has to go out with the first

team, and in that case we will favor the older guys," Franchione said. "But no one is a starter in our eyes yet. Now, we know we have certain guys who we'll be counting on. We're looking for (wide receiver) Freddie Milons to rise again.

"But some who haven't been prominent have a new lease, and with a new start we look for many of them to have an improved outlook." He said being everyone having a fresh start ordinarily means improved attitude and performance by the players.

Franchione has reason to know of which he speaks. This is not his first time to take over a team prior to spring practice. He did the same thing at New Mexico and TCU.

As a part of giving all players a "clean slate," Bama coaches won't spend much time looking at videotapes of last season. A little work in that area will be done "just to give us a little idea," Franchione said. "It's important to judge what our strengths are and what our concerns are, but I don't want to pre-judge the players."

Franchione has said that he will fit his schemes to his personnel. Nevertheless,

practice has to start with some schemes before personnel has been fully evaluated. To some extent the coaches can get an idea of their players by off-season performance. He said that one experience he has had in the past is that new coaches will look at the players with a different eye and so there is a chance that a man who is a down-the-line player at one position can be a contributor, even a star, at another. "Part of the evaluation process will be whether someone on offense needs to be on defense, and so forth."

One thing that helps is that both offensively and defensively Alabama will have multiple schemes. "We'll have a starting point, and then things will change when the pads go on," Franchione said.

He said the staff could project some areas where Alabama can expect to be strong, including wide receiver, tight end and tailback. He said the Tide would be looking for solid players in the offensive line, fullback and "a starting quarterback."

Although a few players are having to come back from injuries, previous starters returning for the Tide include wide receivers

Freddie Milons, Antonio Carter and Jason McAddley; tight end Terry Jones, Jr.; offensive linemen Dante Ellington and Dennis Alexander; quarterbacks Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts; tailback Ahmaad Galloway; defensive linemen Kindal Moorehead, Jarret Johnson, Antwan Odom, and Kenny King; linebackers Saleem Rasheed, Victor Ellis, Marvin Constant and Darius Gilbert; safety Reggie Myles; and cornerback Gerald Dixon. Bama also returns punter Lane Bearden and place-kicker Neal Thomas.

One thing Franchione is sure of is that while Alabama had a 3-8 record last year, the Tide didn't have 3-8 talent. When spring practice begins, he said, "I don't expect to see a bad team. I expect to see a hungry team, a team that wants to redeem itself, a team that will put out great effort."

He said, "I know we have some talent, there was something not in place for them to go 3-8. I think if you ask the players they would say they have the talent, but that the team needed leadership, discipline, direction, the coaches and players on the same page, a plan. The players have brought that up to me. They also need to be stronger and in better condition. Not every player, but certain ones."

Alabama has already begun a vigorous off-season program of weight-lifting and agility and conditioning drills. And, said Franchione, "We're not going to back off the lifting weights during spring training. There are two days a week when we're not practicing they can lift. And then they'll have to work out a plan with their position coach and Coach Pollard (Strength and Conditioning Coach Ben Pollard) to work in a third day of weight-lifting."

He said the players feel good about the progress they have made in the off-season program. And he said Pollard "feels good about the effort. He knows we've got a long way to go, but the approach is good."

Franchione said he had talked to upcoming junior quarterback Tyler Watts. "He said that everything was different," Franchione said. "I asked him if that was good or bad. He said, 'Good. We're going to be okay.' So the attitude is good."

One thing that pleased the coach was the performance by the players on three early Saturday workouts in January. Those were held during the recruiting period so the position coaches could watch their players in the short agility session. The coaches were on the road recruiting during the week and so the Saturday morning events were the only opportunity for players and coaches to be together. Franchione said he thinks both



Victor Ellis, an upcoming senior who started most of last season at middle linebacker, will begin the process of winning that job again when spring practice gets under way on March 12. Barry Fikes Photo

players and coaches enjoyed the sessions.

Franchione puts a lot of stock in strength and conditioning. He said some 18 players were able to bench press 400 or more pounds when first tested, and that when the players are tested again later this spring he would expect that number to as much as double.

Following spring practice, in late April and early May, Pollard will put some of his top weightroom performers on display in a "Night of Champions" exhibition that will be open to the public.

Franchione has a "coach on the run" philosophy that makes time on the field as efficient as possible. Outside observers, who have included the staffs of a number of professional football teams, estimate his practices result in players getting two to three times as many repetitions as those in a normal college workout.

"We talk in meetings and do it on the field," Franchione said. "We strive to get as many reps as possible. One of the changes for the guys this spring will be the players learning how we coach. We don't have a lot

of standing around. We get as much done as we can in our two hours. We don't want to slow down practice with teaching that can be done in meetings and in watching films."

The method requires planning. "It takes organization and attention to detail to get so much done," Franchione said. "I spend a lot of time on the practice schedule." He will have the first seven practices planned before March 12. During spring break he will plan the final eight workouts. And all of the pre-season practices in August will be planned during the summer.

The planning is extraordinary. Franchione has a famous "book," which is a giant binder in which every practice and every other aspect of football for the year on a day-to-day basis will be outlined for the team.

Franchione will personally spend most of his time with the offense, but he will not coach the quarterbacks. "I want the quarterbacks to be on the same page with me, but Coach (Les) Koenning will coach them. I'll spend most of my time with the offense, but I'll spend enough time with the defense to know what everyone is doing."

2001 Alabama Spring Football Roster

This roster may not include every player expected by the coaching staff to be on the practice field this spring. This roster was determined by an examination of previous participants expected to return and known newcomers. It is subject to more change than usual, particularly regarding positions.

NAME, POS	CL	HT	WT	EXP	HOMETOWN	NAME, POS	CL	HT	WT	EXP	HOMETOWN
Dennis Alexander, RG	So	6-6	339	IL	Memphis, TN	Harold James, SLB	So	6-1	218	SQ	Osceola, AR
Carlos Andrews, RCB	So	6-0	200	SQ	Tallahassee, FL	Michael James, SE	Sr	5-11	167	IL	Tuscaloosa
Josh Averett, QB	Fr	6-5	210	SQ	Vance	Jarret Johnson, LDT	Jr	6-4	281	2L	Chiefland, FL
Joel Babb, SE	Jr	6-0	186	SQ	Phenix City	Charles Jones, FS	So	6-0	175	SQ	Waynesboro, GA
Waine Bacon, FS	Jr	5-10	195	SQ	Forrestville, MD	Terry Jones, Jr, TE	Sr	6-4	265	3L	Tuscaloosa
Matt Bass, WLB	Fr	5-11	181	SQ	Lake City, FL	Kenny King, LDE	Jr	6-5	277	2L	Daphne
Lannis Baxley, LT	Jr	6-7	314	IL	Waynesboro, GA	Matt Lomax, LG	So	6-2	284	SQ	Mobile
Santonio Beard, TB	So	6-1	207	SQ	Nashville, TN	Triandos Luke, FL	So	6-0	190	IL	Phenix City
Lane Bearden, P	Jr	6-2	198	2L	Helena	Donnie Lowe, MLB	So	6-2	247	IL	LaVergne, TN
Quintin Beltran, TB	Fr	5-9	189	SQ	Dale City, VA	John Mark Harrison, SE	So	5-11	173	SQ	Gardendale
Brad Biel, SLB	So	5-11	215	SQ	Orlando, FL	Danny Martz, RG	Fr	6-4	300	SQ	Hyattsville, MD
Hirchel Bolden, FL	Jr	6-0	196	2L	Dothan, AL	Evan Mathis, C	Fr	6-5	278	SQ	Homewood
Dennis Bonga, FL	Jr	6-3	196	SQ	Tallahassee, FL	Jason McAddley, FL	Sr	6-2	199	3L	Oak Ridge, TN
Eric Boschung, LG	Fr	6-2	268	SQ	Tuscaloosa	Roberto McBride, FL	Jr	5-9	177	SQ	Lakeland, FL
Brian Bostick, PK	Fr	5-11	187	SQ	Cullman	John McClelland, LCB	Jr	5-11	170	SQ	Wetumpka
Anthony Bryant, RDT	So	6-3	349	SQ	Newbern	Carl McInnish, WLB	Jr	6-1	180	SQ	Brewton
Wesley Britt, RT	Fr	6-8	304	SQ	Cullman	Nautyn McKay-Loescher, RDE	So	6-4	240	SQ	Toronto
Connie Brown, FS	Sr	6-3	202	IL	Petaluma, CA	Mark Miller, QB	So	6-1	200	SQ	Gadsden
Marvin Brown, FB	Jr	6-0	259	2L	Hyattsville, MD	Freddie Milons, SE	Sr	5-11	191	3L	Starkville, MS
Antonio Carter, FL	Jr	5-9	195	2L	Tallahassee, FL	Brandon Miree, TB	So	6-2	233	1L	Cincinnati, OH
Clifton Carter, TB	Jr	5-10	195	SQ	Theodore	Aries Monroe, RDE	Sr	6-4	231	1L	Tallahassee, FL
David Cavan, TE	Fr	6-5	228	SQ	Northport	Eric Moore, RCB	Jr	5-10	180	SQ	Mobile
Gerard Clark, RDE	Fr	6-6	257	SQ	Daytona Bch, FL	Stephen Moore, FL	Jr	6-1	173	SQ	Double Springs
Sam Collins, FL	Jr	6-1	181	2L	Fayette	Kindal Moorehead, LDE	Jr	6-4	293	2L	Memphis, TN
Marvin Constant, MLB	Jr	6-1	257	IL	Tuscaloosa	Nick Morgan, FL	So	5-11	185	SQ	Birmingham
Calvin Cook, LCB	Jr	6-0	170	SQ	Sylacauga	Reggie Myles, SS	Sr	6-0	184	3L	Pascagoula, MS
Adam Cox, SLB	Sr	6-1	222	3L	Jasper	Kyler O'Neill, FS	So	6-1	180	SQ	Birmingham
Nathan Cox, FB	Fr	6-1	224	SQ	Stapleton	Antwan Odom, RDE	So	6-5	247	1L	Bayou LaBatre
Brodie Croyle, QB	Fr	6-2	185	HS	Rainbow City	Shawn Oglesby, LDE	Jr	6-6	216	SQ	Owensboro, KY
Scott Crouch, QB	Fr	6-4	213	SQ	Navarre, FL	Jay Pierce, SE	Jr	6-2	190	SQ	Jasper
David Daniel, RDT	Sr	6-0	264	IL	Northport	Marico Portis, LG	Jr	6-3	308	1L	Prichard
Brooks Daniels, WLB	So	6-2	184	IL	Jasper, FL	Richard Randolph, LCB	Jr	5-11	180	SQ	Decatur, GA
Brandon Dean, SLB	Fr	6-1	210	SQ	Mobile	Saleem Rasheed, WLB	Jr	6-3	227	2L	Birmingham
Gerald Dixon, RCB	Jr	5-11	182	2L	Burtonsville, MD	Bart Raulston, RT	Jr	6-9	347	SQ	Sylvania
Jeremy Drummond, TE	Sr	6-4	256	SQ	Picayne, MS	Jason Rawls, WLB	Fr	6-0	215	SQ	Statesboro, GA
Dante Ellington, LT	Jr	6-6	354	2L	Leighton	Shontua Ray, LCB	Sr	5-11	212	2L	Montevallo
Victor Ellis, MLB	Sr	6-2	232	3L	Chattanooga, TN	Jonathan Richey, QB	Sr	6-1	208	SQ	Geraldine
Alonzo Ephraim, C	Jr	6-4	288	1L	Birmingham	Nick Ridings, SN	So	6-0	235	1L	Marietta, GA
Corey Ferguson, LRB	Jr	5-10	165	SQ	Montgomery	Derek Sanders, LDT	Jr	6-5	283	SQ	Sandersville, GA
PJ Fletcher, SLB	Fr	6-2	213	SQ	Panama City, FL	Matthew Sanders, P	Fr	6-2	231	SQ	Ashville
Robert Freeland, P	Fr	6-5	223	SQ	Eutaw	Theo Sanders, FB	Jr	6-3	248	SQ	Birmingham
Dre Fulgham, SE	So	6-1	214	IL	Montevallo	Rob Saucier, MLB	Jr	5-10	218	SQ	Mobile
Ahmaad Galloway, TB	Jr	6-1	228	2L	Millington, TN	Randall Shoultz, LT	So	6-5	330	SQ	Saltipa
Gabe Giardina, PK	Fr	5-6	160	SQ	Charleston, WV	Nick Signaigo, MLB	Fr	6-3	231	SQ	Collierville, TN
Casey Gilbert, TE	So	6-4	286	SQ	Pascagoula, MS	Justin Smiley, LG	Fr	6-3	292	SQ	Brooklet, GA
Darius Gilbert, SLB	Sr	6-3	253	3L	Oxford	Josh Smith, TB	Fr	5-10	195	SQ	Birmingham
Terry Givens, FL	Fr	6-5	193	SQ	Tallahassee, FL	Keith Stephens, LT	Jr	6-2	358	SQ	Columbus, GA
Brandon Greer, SE	So	6-1	192	SQ	Rainbow City	Ben-Giles Stevens, FS	Sr	6-3	188	SQ	Birmingham
Matt Grice, SS	Fr	6-0	175	SQ	Tuscaloosa	Matt Summerford, MLB	So	6-2	210	SQ	Oneonta
Ted Gryska, TE	Fr	6-6	228	SQ	Northport	Patrick Tate, TE	Jr	6-3	238	SQ	Ft Payne
Beau Hagnas, FL	Fr	6-0	200	SQ	Mobile	JoLee Taylor, TE	Fr	6-3	277	SQ	Bankston
Hamid Haqq, FL	So	6-0	185	SQ	Huntsville	Lance Taylor, SE	So	5-9	181	SQ	Mt Vernon
David Hardin, SLB	So	6-2	205	SQ	Birmingham	Neal Thomas, PK	Sr	5-11	183	1L	Clinton, MS
Stephen Harkness, FB	Fr	5-10	222	SQ	Vero Beach, FL	Ty Tyrus, RCB	Fr	5-10	175	SQ	Geneva
Tyler Harris, SS	So	6-0	207	SQ	Knoxville, TN	David Voyles, RDT	Jr	6-5	277	SQ	Ripley, MS
John Mark Harrison, SE	Sr	5-11	173	SQ	Gardendale	Thurman Ward, SS	Fr	6-1	174	SQ	Starkville, MS
Jared Hasty, PK	Fr	5-9	165	SQ	Dothan	Tyler Watts, QB	Jr	6-3	217	2L	Pelham
Danny Haynes, PK	So	5-11	211	SQ	Killen	Wesley Welch, FS	Sr	6-3	202	SQ	Monroeville
Atlas Herrion, OL	So	6-4	299	TR	Daphne	Jason Williams, FB	So	5-11	240	SQ	Fairhope
Allen Hollie, LDT	Sr	6-0	281	SQ	Atlanta, GA	Shaun Williams, LT	Sr	6-5	282	SQ	Augusta, GA
Patrick Hollingsworth, C	Jr	6-1	323	SQ	Baton Rouge, LA	Derrick Woods, SE	So	5-11	185	SQ	Memphis, TN
Zac Holt, FS	Jr	6-0	180	SQ	Scottsboro	Cornelius Wortham, SLB	So	6-1	211	1L	Calhoun City MS
Ray Hudson, RCB	Fr	5-11	197	SQ	Bonifay, FL	Michael Ziifle, PK	Fr	6-0	208	SQ	Newnan, GA
Chris James, LCB	Fr	6-0	181	SQ	Albany, GA	Andrew Zow, QB	Sr	6-3	222	3L	Lake Butler, FL

Ginger Jones:

A Winner On And Off The Field

by Jason Houston

Senior first baseman was All-America as she helped Alabama to 2000 World Series

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards.

—Coach Paul Bryant

Most who follow Alabama athletics are familiar with the adage put forth by the greatest football coach of all time. Coach Bryant would have been able to use one of today's finest Crimson Tide ath-

letes as exhibit one for an example. That player is softball star Ginger Jones.

Having prepped at Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport, Jones is the epitome of the "local girl who makes good." In fact, she is the first softball player from the Tuscaloosa area ever to play fast-pitch softball on the Division I level. Not only has she played, she has excelled beyond all expectations. Last season as a junior, she led the Southeastern Conference with 17 home runs, and tied the conference record for

runs batted in with 69, breaking the school record of 65. At the conclusion of her outstanding season, she was named a first-team All-America by Easton and the National Fast-Pitch Coaches Association.

"It took a long time for the All-America honor to sink in," Jones said. "Everybody was like, 'Do you realize that means you were the best first baseman in the United States last year?' I never really stopped to consider myself and my accomplishments last year until I was standing on the stage with so many elite softball players."

Jones admitted that she did not expect to come so far, so fast.

"My freshman year was really tough," Jones said. "I had a problem with having enough self-confidence. I was told that I was the little girl from Northport that would never make it. But, I always believed that if I put my mind to it and worked as hard as I could, that I could do anything I wanted."

"I was determined to become an elite player, but I never dreamed I would be All-America on a World Series team this early."

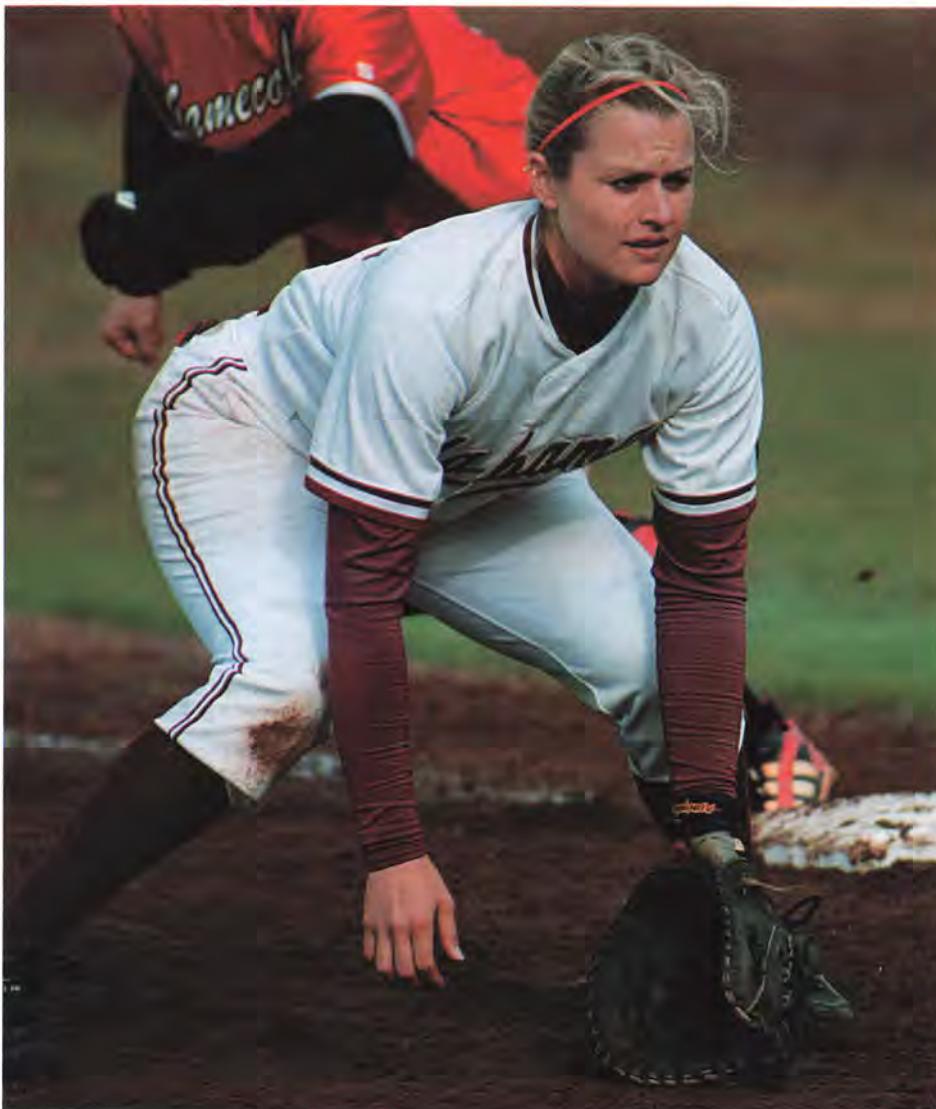
The Alabama softball program has progressed by leaps and bounds in its four-year existence. In the second year of the program, the team won the 1998 SEC Tournament. In the third year, under Coach Patrick Murphy, there was a first-ever NCAA tournament appearance. Last season, the team went to the College World Series and won the school's first-ever World Series game.

"We definitely over-achieved last year, and that's what you want out of a team," Murphy said.

"Last year at the Series, it took me a while to realize that we were really there," Jones said. "Our major goal was to make it to regionals and do really well there. The World Series was a possibility, but I don't think it was ever dead-set that we would make it, even though we had a lot of talent."

Ginger Jones didn't have far to go to play college softball, across the river from Northport to The University of Alabama. The All-America first baseman is one reason the Crimson Tide softball program has come miles in a very short time.

Barry Fikes Photo



"Once we got there, I was just in awe. It was intimidating at first to be around so many great athletes, particularly after I found out that I was named All-America. That night, before the tournament started, was when it really hit me that we were one of the eight best teams in the nation. The first game we were really nervous. Once we got there and got the first game behind us, we were good to go."

Based on last year's success, the Tide is ranked number five in the NFCA/USA Today Top 25 preseason poll heading into the 2001 season, and has high expectations for this year.

"It's a boost of confidence to be ranked high in the pre-season," said Jones. "Personally, my goal for the team is to win the SEC this year. We have talent, and every player on our team is ready to play. This is the best chance that we've ever had."

Of course, a return trip to the World Series, this time perhaps winning it all, is a team goal as well.

"As I watched the other teams at the World Series last year, I thought that it was realistic for us to have a goal of winning the World Series this year," Jones said. "But, the new girls haven't been there and don't know

that feeling yet. Still, our main goal is to win the SEC. We've gotten so close. We came within a half-game last year. We need to get it done and win the conference this year. That's our biggest goal."

Jones' success is not confined to the softball diamond. With a double major in Marine Science and Biology, she earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average last semester. She was second team GTE Academic All-America last year.

"She has no spare time," said Murphy. "It's just softball and study."

"I've always aimed for perfection in every aspect of my college life," Jones said. "I want to be the best first baseman, but I want to have academic success along with that."

Athletics has always played an important role in her life, Jones said. Even as a child, she was always around the sports action.

"I grew up as a tomboy," Jones said. "I was the little ragamuffin out in the yard. I grew up around all boys. I played football, basketball, you name it. Any kind of sport, I was in the group playing."

"In high school, I played slow-pitch softball until I was about 15 or 16 years old, when I switched to fast-pitch. I would play

both sometimes. I also played volleyball in high school and was offered some junior college scholarships for volleyball, but softball was my true love."

Entering The University as a female athlete, Jones wasn't sure what to expect.

"I grew up in Tuscaloosa where all you hear is Crimson Tide football," Jones said. "Coming here was a little intimidating because of that. Now, when people hear I play softball, they know about us because of our quick success and our new stadium. That makes us feel great."

The Tide's softball complex is a sparkling new addition to the Alabama athletics program. Open completely for use for the first time this season, the \$2.2 million stadium and clubhouse is a top-of-the-line facility.

"I walk out onto one of the nicest fields in the nation," Jones said. "It's a dream come true, we waited a long time for it, and I think we deserve it. We have a real stadium. Most of the rest of the conference teams usually just have a field with some bleachers set up around it. Florida has probably the only other stadium in the league that even compares to ours."

"I'm amazed every time I step out there," Murphy said. "I still drive by McFarland

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Alabama has a state-of-the-art softball complex and Crimson Tide All-America Ginger Jones thinks that plays a factor in the success of the Crimson Tide. Jones wants Bama to win the Southeastern Conference championship this year and return to the Women's College World Series. Barry Fikes Photo

Boulevard, and go about five miles an hour, just to look at it. It's incredible. It's a major league atmosphere out there. It made all the difference in the world to our program last year."

As a senior, Jones said that she wants the 2001 season to be her most successful, and she wants to lead her team to even greater heights.

"My most important role on the team is to be a leader," Jones said. "I definitely want to be a leader to the freshmen, and give them a work ethic and a role to go by. I know that what helped me most was to learn from my

teammates and to learn what I needed to do.

"Other than that, the most important thing I bring to the team is my hitting. My hitting is definitely my strength."

Her coach agrees with her on that point.

"Ginger brings a presence in the line-up that can't be ignored," said Murphy. "You can't pitch around her; she'll just take her walks. She'll wait for her favorite pitch at 0-2. She's patient; she'll sit on pitches. She's one of the best I've ever seen at hitting 'mistakes.' She'll crush a mistake. If you give it to her, she's going to hit it."

The vivacious 22-year-old appears to have

a very bright future, hoping to continue her success both on and off the field.

"I was drafted by the Tampa Bay Firesticks to go there this summer and I plan on doing that," Jones said. "If something works out and I get the chance to play on the Olympic team, I would love to do that. Once again, I am really into my academics, and I want to go to graduate school. I'm soon to finish my degree with a double major in marine science and biology and I would like to find a graduate school to continue that."

Continuing to pay the price of victory, Jones will likely continue to reap the rewards. Coach Bryant would be proud.



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Football Signees:

First Group Pleases Franchione

by Kirk McNair &
J.E. Lisby

Tide adds 21 new football players in transition year

Head Coach Dennis Franchione accentuated the positive when he discussed his first Crimson Tide recruiting class. He expressed satisfaction with his first Crimson Tide signing class on signing day, and the point he made time and again was his pleasure at Bama signing players from within the state. Alabama signed 21 players on National Signing Day, and 15 of those are Alabamians.

Franchione is a believer in positive recruiting. "You have to sell everything," he said. "We were 3-8 last year, but we didn't dwell on that. We told them we had a losing record, but it was only the seventh losing record in over 100 years of Alabama football. We sold the history and tradition. We had to sell ourselves [as coaches] and the success we've had."

The Tide head coach said, "Recruiting is having to talk kids into wanting to be at your school. But we never want to lose sight of the young man who is talented and who WANTS to be at Alabama. We've got some guys in this class like that, guys who it was enough for them to have the opportunity to wear that crimson jersey. It's part of their culture and upbringing to want to play for the Crimson Tide." In fact, Franchione said, all of those signing with Alabama in this recruiting class "believe in The University of Alabama and in this athletics department and this coaching staff and want to play for the Crimson Tide. And they were like we are; they believe no matter what is out there, we will overcome it."

One thing that is "out there" is the unknown of the NCAA probe into Alabama football, an investigation into practices by the previous Alabama coaching staff. Franchione said it had to be addressed in every home and with every prospect. And, he said, there were some prospects who said they would go to Alabama except for not knowing the result of the NCAA situation. (Alabama rivals, not all of whom practice positive recruiting, provided false information about the situation to some Tide prospects.)

Franchione said that the staff had done a good job considering the transition and the "unique issues." He said, "What takes 365 days to accomplish, we had to do in six or eight weeks. I'm anxious to have a whole year to develop the relationships that are necessary to successful recruiting."

Franchione said that the support staff and academic side of The University had been instrumental in the recruiting effort.

He also said the state's high school coaches had given his coaching staff "a great reception. They were very helpful. Obviously there is a lot of compassion for The University of Alabama." He also said he was very impressed with the quality of the high school football programs in Alabama and with the quality of the players.

Franchione added that most of those signed by Bama are eligible or nearly eligible academically.

An interesting observation by the Tide head coach is that his staff had to recruit based on a "perception of needs." He said after spring practice that the staff will have a better idea of actual needs. The reason for that, he explained, is that whereas there may be a perceived need at a position, when the new coaches begin looking at the returning players they may see some of those needs filled.

However, he said it was important for Alabama to land two quarterbacks since there are only two scholarshiped quarterbacks on the roster. He also thought since three starters had graduated in the offensive line that landing four offensive linemen was a positive, and that it was particularly good to get one of the premier junior college linemen (Atlas Herrion) who could participate this spring. He noted landing two tight ends and four defensive backs as filling needs.

"We hit across the board," he said. "We got a little of everything. Next year we will be able to be a little more position-specific."

He said that he would have preferred to have signed more than one defensive tackle. Franchione noted that a defensive tackle, "a big guy who can move," is always a recruiting plus.

One Tide signee, J.B. Closner of San Antonio, Texas, was best known as a defensive tackle in high school, but is listed as an offensive lineman on Alabama's signing roster. Franchione said it is possible that Closner will be a defensive lineman at Bama, but said "We think he can be a great offensive lineman."

Alabama signed only one linebacker, Freddie Roach of Killen, and Franchione said, "He's built, he runs well, and he is physical and I think he has a chance to be a great one."

The Tide coach said it was decided to sign a placekicker this year. "I always want to come out of the red zone with points," he said. He noted that placekicker Neal Thomas is a senior this year. He said if signee Mike McLaughlin of Gautier, Mississippi, can win the job that would be a plus and that if Thomas holds onto the job then McLaughlin would have four years of eligibility remaining.

He noted that most of Alabama's defensive backs are taller than has been the norm, noting that receivers are now bigger and so cornerbacks need to be bigger unless they can compensate with speed. He said that Marquez Dupree of Philadelphia, Mississippi, would begin Tide work as a tailback. And he said that Quentin Bowens of Killen, signed as a fullback, has experience at a number of positions and "gives us some flexibility."

Franchione said that two Bama signees are also excellent baseball players. Oddly, both are from Fayette, wide receiver Bryan Bass and quarterback Spencer Pennington. Franchione said if they are drafted high enough they'll go on to baseball, but if they are not they will go on to college and pursue both football and baseball.

Here, in alphabetical order, is a look at those 21 players who signed football scholarships with Alabama on February 7:

Mark Anderson, 6-6, 215, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a versatile athlete who could end up at either tight end or defensive end. With only one proven tight end currently on the squad (Terry Jones), if Anderson plays as a true freshman he'll likely get a long look on offense. But most predict that he will bulk up during a redshirt year and end up at defensive end. "Mark is a great pass rusher who has been timed in 4.5 seconds (40 yards)," said Chris Thurmond, the Tide coach who recruited him. "He's the type of flash guy we like on our defense, as evidenced by his three-sacks, two-blocked punts game. He's also an outstanding basketball player."

A two-way player for Tulsa's Booker T. Washington, Mark played for Coach Antwain Jimmerson. As a defensive player, he made 104 tackles and nine sacks his senior season as the Hornets went 11-2. He also caught nine passes, three for touch-



Mark Anderson



Todd Bates



Quentin Bowens



Brandon Brooks



Donald Clarke

downs. In one game on defense, he had two blocked punts, three sacks and 20 tackles. He was team captain and was an all-metro and Big-12 Prep pick. He chose the Tide over TCU, Tulsa, and Oklahoma State.

Bryan Bass, wide receiver, 6-1, 180, Fayette, is one of the top athletes in this year's signing class, but is considered unlikely to ever play college football. He loves Alabama, but his potential in baseball will likely spell a professional career for him on the diamond. NCAA rules allow a man to be a professional in one sport and play as an amateur in another, but most drafted as high as Bass is expected to be picked are not given that option by the baseball team paying big bucks. Additionally, Bass said he is not yet academically eligible. Bass, who is currently enrolled at Seminole High School in Tampa, Florida, played most of his high school football at Fayette County. As an all-state wide receiver in 1999 he hauled in 48 receptions for 887 yards and eight touchdowns. Bass, a switch-hitting shortstop, batted .500 with 12 home runs, 16 doubles, six triples and 55 runs batted in last season. He also recorded 14 stolen bases. Bass selected the Tide over Mississippi State and Clemson.

Todd Bates, 6-4, 220, Heflin, is a classic example of how projections based on junior-year evaluations are notoriously unreliable. He came on strong during his senior year to end up rated as one of the top prospects in the state. He was named the top lineman in his division and ranked on the *Tuscaloosa News* Sweet 16 list. Bates played linebacker at Cleburne County High School, but his frame has most projecting him at defensive end on the college level. "Todd is a very tall linebacker and big enough for defensive end possibilities," said Carl Torbush, the Tide's defensive coordinator. "On film, he's one of the top prospects we evaluated. He's an outstanding athlete...plays basketball, and plays it well."

This past season he was selected the state's Class 4A Lineman of the Year after making

over 100 tackles. Cleburne County Coach Mike Short said Bates reminds him of former Tide All-America defensive end Eric Curry. "He has the frame to be 260 or 270 pounds in college," Short said. Todd didn't get a lot of preseason publicity but, as a senior, he accounted for 119 tackles, 12 sacks, five fumbles caused, five fumbles recovered, and three interceptions. On offense, Bates caught ten passes for 191 yards and two touchdowns from his tight end spot. Todd chose the Tide over Tennessee, Auburn and North Carolina State.

Quentin Bowens, 6-0, 265, Killen, is projected as a fullback by Bama even though he was recruited by most as a tight end. The graduation of Dustin McClintock and continued academic concerns related to Marvin Brown made it crucial that Alabama find some help at fullback in this class. Used primarily as a blocking tight end in junior college, Bowens reports that the move to fullback will present no problem for him, as he played most of his high school career at the position. "He's a slash player — he played three positions," said Kenneth Pope who recruited him. "We project Quentin as a goal-line fullback. He's a bit short at defensive end, but he also can play tight end."

"It's a family tradition in my house to go down there and play for Alabama," said Quentin. Bowens' brother, Tim, is a former Tide wide receiver. His half-brother, linebacker Freddie Roach, also signed to play for Alabama this year. "I really wanted to play with Freddie again," Bowens said. The past two seasons, Bowens played tight end and defensive end at East Central (Mississippi) Community College, catching 12 passes for 144 yards and a touchdown as a freshman. Bowens chose the Tide over Auburn and Mississippi State.

Brandon Brooks is one of the more interesting signees in this year's class, primarily because he's listed as a 5-4, 152-pound wide receiver. Brooks' diminutive size have many wondering what position he can play in college. But his overwhelming speed

(he could have a future as a track athlete as well) and outstanding quickness indicate he should be able to help on kick returns. Brooks was an early commitment garnered by the previous coaching staff. "We love his speed," said Pope, Alabama's receivers coach. "He just broke his own state record in the indoor 55-meter sprint. And I've watched him dunk a basketball. He has great toughness about him."

Brooks, who prepped at Shady Valley near Birmingham, starred as a kick returner and wide receiver and also played running back and cornerback as his team went 8-5 last season. He had 108 carries for 725 yards and 10 touchdowns and caught 13 passes for 325 yards and five touchdowns. He returned six punts for 121 yards and a touchdown. On defense, he had 52 tackles and six interceptions. Over the past two seasons Brooks returned seven punts for touchdowns and averaged 21.5 yards per return. Defensively, he had 52 tackles and six interceptions. He repeated as state indoor 55-meter champion with a 6.43 clocking. Last spring he finished fourth in the state in the 100 meters with a 10.8.

Donald Clarke, 6-6, 260, is a junior college transfer ticketed for tight end duty. With the graduation of Shawn Draper and injury to Terry Jones, signing a tight end capable of stepping in immediately was critical. Clarke (whose last name was misspelled "Clark" in most reports of Alabama football signings), a versatile athlete and excellent blocker, should get immediate playing time, especially in two-tight end sets.

Clarke played high school football at Spanish River in Boca Raton, Florida and then was an all-conference pick for Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. He is known for his blocking and receiving abilities. Clarke was a first team all-county pick as a prep senior. He is very strong, benching 340. He chose the Tide over Oregon State, Mississippi State, Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado.

J.B. Closner, 6-4, 290, from Clark High



J.B. Closner



Brodie Croyle



Von Ewing



Roman Harper



Atlas Herrion

School in San Antonio, Texas, is expected to get an early look at offensive guard. Closner is the classic line prospect preferred by this staff: athletic, mobile and mean. Another recruit who only considered the Tide after Franchione was hired, Closner loves the current coaching staff and liked the campus instantly when he took his official visit. "He has a big-time body, really large," said Assistant Coach Mark Tommerdahl. "He's our kind of guy, too, a tough, physical player. He's a self-made player; he made huge gains between his junior and senior seasons. We love that off-season attitude and work ethic. And he scored over 1000 on his SAT."

J.B. earned all-district and all-city honors as a junior and senior and also participated in track. He also played defensive tackle in high school, making 98 tackles with 12 quarterback sacks. He was also a Texas Top 100 selection. J.B. benches 350 and squats 475. He chose the Tide over Texas A&M, Baylor, Vanderbilt, and Texas Tech.

Brodie Croyle, 6-2, 197 (up about 12 pounds since entering Alabama in January), was considered by many to be the nation's top quarterback prospect, which computes to top overall prospect by some. His credentials are based only partly on his play at Westbrook Christian School in Rainbow City, particularly since he played only part of the opening game of his senior season before suffering a season-ending knee injury. Because Croyle will participate in spring practice, it is possible he will earn playing time even with Bama returning two experienced quarterbacks. "We're excited to have him in school early where he can be learning our system," said Les Koenning, Alabama's quarterbacks coach. "His knee is stable, though he's still in rehab. He's using it with full force, and he's getting stronger in the weight room. Obviously, we have in him one of the best young quarterback prospects in the country."

A SuperPrep All-America, he became the first player to commit to Alabama in the Dennis Franchione era. Croyle passed for

9,323 yards and 105 touchdown passes, both Alabama state records, during his abbreviated prep career. He also holds the state record for passing yards in a single game (528), passing yards in a season (3,787), touchdown passes in a season (44), and for touchdown passes in a game (seven). Croyle, who starred at Westbrook Christian beginning in the eighth grade, passed for 2,838 yards 38 touchdowns as a junior. He had only seven interceptions all season. He holds nine Alabama passing records. For his career, Croyle had completed 524 of 997 passes for 9,323 yards with 105 touchdowns and 37 interceptions. However, because he played in a small school classification, much of Croyle's reputation is based on his excellent showing in numerous football camps over the past few years.

His father, John, played football for Coach Paul Bryant at Bama, and his sister, Reagan, played basketball for the Tide women's team and was also Homecoming queen at The University. Brodie chose Bama over FSU, Miami, LSU and Oklahoma.

Marquez Dupree, 6-0, 219, of Philadelphia, Mississippi, also has a football pedigree, though not with Alabama. Dupree, a talented athlete capable of playing more than one position, has been projected by some for defense. However, he will begin his Crimson Tide career at tailback. His father, Marcus, was one of the most famous running back prospects in history. Marcus, who considered Alabama when coming out of high school some 23 years ago, wound up signing with Oklahoma. Tide Coach Kinny Pope calls Marcus "a class act." Pope said Marcus was recruited to Oklahoma by Charley North, currently director of football operations at Alabama. Pope said, "Marquez has nice size with great speed and quickness. He ran track at a small school where on Saturday when there was a meet, they'd just get a few guys together and go run. He's smooth with a nice burst, and the thing you notice about him is that you don't see anybody catching him."

Dupree, rushed for 1,305 yards and 17 touchdowns. He played one snap on defense and turned that play into a 77-yard interception return for a touchdown. He was a three-time all-state pick and earned high school All-America honors in 1999 and 2000. Philadelphia finished the season at 10-2. As a junior, despite missing half the season with a knee injury, Dupree rushed for 890 yards and 13 scores. He once scored six touchdowns in one game. As a baseball player, Marquez earned MVP honors as a sophomore and junior and set the school record for most home runs in a season. He also participated in track in the 100-meter dash. Marquez chose Bama over Mississippi State, Southern Miss, Oklahoma and Ole Miss.

Von Ewing, 6-5, 297, of Troy was the subject of much discussion during the recruiting season in part because of his openness, notably as an Internet activist, and in part because of his indecision. Ewing committed to Alabama last summer, switched to Michigan after an early fall recruiting trip to Ann Arbor, later said Georgia after a visit to Athens, and then went back to an Alabama-Tennessee battle after going to Knoxville. When he finally announced for Alabama, he noted it had always been his favorite school and was his original choice. "Von could play guard or tackle," said Jim Bob Helduser, Alabama's offensive line coach. "He has a terrific offensive line body. With his size, he can get bigger in the right way. He's not a huge guy you have to whittle down; he's proportioned right at this stage of his development. He was a dominating high school player."

Playing for coach Hugh Fountain at Henderson High School, Ewing played tackle and was the most dominant offensive lineman in the state. He gave up just one sack in his last 21 games. Ewing was a first team all-state selection; was the 5A Lineman of the Year; was selected by the *Dothan Eagle* and the *Troy Messenger* as Player of the Year, and was on the *Mobile Register* and *The Birmingham News* "Super 12" squads. Ewing



Clint Johnston



Juke King



Anthony Madison



Mike McLaughlin



Spencer Pennington

was also a *SuperPrep* All-America pick.

Roman Harper, 6-1, 180, of Prattville was his high school's quarterback, but projects as a defensive back in college. Family ties delayed his decision for a time, and losing schools scoffed that Alabama had out-recruited Troy State for Harper. Harper's brother plays at Troy State and Roman seriously considered the program that is moving into Division 1A. As the best athlete on his high school team, Harper saw most of his prep action on the offensive side of the ball. But the Bama coaches project Harper at either corner or safety on the college level. He's another taller-bigger-faster athlete of the type this staff seeks to play in the Tide secondary.

Harper played quarterback and free safety his senior season. On defense, he finished the season with 58 tackles and four interceptions in limited playing time. Harper broke his leg his senior year, but is healed now. As a quarterback, he accounted for over 800 yards of offense and 13 touchdowns. He was an all-county, all-metro, and *Birmingham News* All-State pick. Prattville finished 9-2 on the season. Harper was offensive MVP for the Lions and was also voted team captain. His father is an assistant coach at Prattville. He picked Bama over Auburn and Troy State.

Atlas Herrion, 6-3, 299, is one of those Alabamians Franchione spoke of, although Herrion came to Alabama from Dodge City Community College in Kansas. Herrion was technically the first signee of the Franchione era. He was an early junior college graduate and entered The University in January. He is working out with the team in the off-season program and will take part in spring drills. Many project Herrion as the most likely first-year starter among the signees. The offensive lineman is projected as a tackle because of his quickness. The Daphne native came close to signing with Auburn before, as he put it, he "came to his senses." "He's a very athletic lineman who was good enough to play defense and offense in junior college," Helduser said.

Herrion, a two-time junior college All-

America at Dodge City was also selected to the first team All-Jayhawk Conference. Herrion, who benches 385 and runs a 4.85, showed his athleticism last season by playing three games at defensive tackle and end. In those games, he made 25 tackles. Two years ago Herrion earned 6A all-state honors at Daphne, where he was a teammate of current Tide defensive end Kenny King. In both of his seasons at Dodge City, Herrion earned All-America and all-conference honors. Atlas chose the Tide over Florida, FSU, Auburn, Mississippi State, LSU, and Ole Miss.

Clint Johnston, 6-4, 235, of Wetumpka is another of those prospects who had an Alabama athletic background. Johnston, a tight end, benefitted from the coaching change at Alabama. The previous staff didn't recruit the Tide legacy, causing Johnston to commit early to Southern Miss. But when Coach Fran offered him a scholarship, the muscular tight end jumped at the prospect of signing with Alabama. Commenting to some that he would have signed with the Tide no matter what its NCAA prospects, Johnston took several trips to Tuscaloosa at his own expense to help host other recruits during the various official visit weekends. "One thing we love about Clint is that he is true Bama through-and-through," Helduser said. "He's a strong blocker, with great hands, good speed and strength. He's got potential to grow to the 255-260 range."

Johnston is the son of former Tide linebacker Johnny Johnston and the nephew of former Tide halfback Donny Johnston, both of whom played in the late 1960s. He was primarily a blocker in Wetumpka's ground-oriented attack. He earned all-state honors in 1999 and 2000; and was an all-county and all-metro selection. He had only nine catches for 270 yards, but four of those receptions were touchdowns. On defense, he had 77 tackles, nine sacks, caused two fumbles and had one fumble recovery. Johnston was the second player to commit to Franchione. He chose the Tide over LSU.

Southern Miss and Vanderbilt.

Tershekiya "Juke" King, 6-2, 205, of Theodore, came on the recruiting scene late, but Tide coaches loved his combination of athleticism, speed, size (he has the frame to add weight) and intelligence. He'll start at safety but he could move to outside linebacker later.

King played free safety at Theodore, where he returned two interceptions for touchdowns. The Bobcats went 11-1, losing in the second round of the state playoffs. He earned all-region honors and was a team captain. Juke led Theodore with 80 tackles and four interceptions as a senior. He also played basketball and ran on the Bobcats' 4X100 meter relay team, turning in a 43.8 clocking, the fastest freshman time in state history. Juke chose the Tide over West Virginia, Louisville, Southern Miss, and Alabama A&M.

Anthony Madison, 5-10, 180, of Thomasville, was a lifelong Alabama fan who was not recruited by the previous Tide coaching staff. As a result, he committed to Mississippi. When the new staff arrived at Alabama, they approached Madison and asked him to make an official visit to Tuscaloosa. When he made that visit, Ole Miss reportedly withdrew its scholarship offer. Considered by most as the top "cover corner" in the state, Madison is expected to get a chance early at cornerback. His height (actually just under 5-10) is a disadvantage, but he's very strong and should be able to make up in muscle what he lacks in inches.

During his high school career, Madison played quarterback, wide receiver, running back, defensive back and returned kicks for Thomasville Coach Stacy Luker. His career statistics include 14 interceptions and over 4,000 yards of offense. Anthony benches 270 and squats 600. He was a three-year team captain and a two-time all-state pick. He once had over 400 all-purpose yards in a game, scoring five touchdowns. He was also selected all-state in basketball.

Mike McLaughlin, 6-1, 190, of Gautier, Mississippi, was able to choose from what he

said he considers the top two college football programs in America. Fortunately for Alabama, the All-America place-kicker chose the Crimson Tide over Notre Dame. McLaughlin committed to Alabama after an early January trip to Tuscaloosa, but later had Tide partisans concerned when he visited South Bend. He was considered by many recruiting services to be the top place-kicking prospect in the nation. With Neal Thomas a senior, McLaughlin understands he may redshirt his first year, but he's said he's willing to do that. Plus, his big leg could get him on the field early for kickoffs. "We expect Mike to push our returning kicker for the job," said Tommerdahl who is the Tide's special teams coordinator. "Mike has excellent accuracy. He kicks well under pressure."

As a senior, McLaughlin hit 12 of 16 field goal attempts, including five of over 40 yards. His longest field goal was a 49-yarder. He also nailed 39 of 40 extra point kicks. He scored 234 career points in high school, third highest nationally for a kicker. He was named first team USA Today All-America.

Spencer Pennington, 6-4, 215, of Fayette, is a star in both baseball and football. Fayette County Coach Walden Tucker calls Pennington the best quarterback Tucker has ever coached, which is meaningful since two of Tucker's sons, Lance and Luke, were Bama quarterback signees. Pennington's arrival could be good news to Coach Jim Wells' baseball squad also, provided Pennington doesn't sign professionally. The previous staff didn't recruit Pennington, and as a result he had committed to Mississippi State. But Coach Franchise recognized immediately that Alabama needed to shore up the quarterback position, and Pennington switched to his childhood favorite. "If he isn't drafted high enough, he'll come play for us and play baseball for the Crimson Tide, too," Koenning said. "He has size, speed, and excellent potential. He's a classic drop-back passer, but also very mobile."

Pennington led his Fayette County team to the Class 4A state championship. Pennington, who passed for 2,433 yards and 20 touchdowns last season, was named to the *Tuscaloosa News* Super 11 team. He led Fayette County with a .430 batting average and 57 runs batted in as a prep junior. He had 15 home runs in 112 at bats. He also led his American Legion team (Post 208 in Tuscaloosa) to a 24-10 record while hitting 11 home runs. In football he threw for over 1,600 yards and 21 touchdowns as a junior, while suffering just seven interceptions. He threw for over 2,300 yards as a sophomore. Pennington's brother, Jeremy, played offensive line at Alabama from 1993-96.

Charlie Peprah, 6-0, 184, of Plano, Texas,



Charlie Peprah



Mark Sanders

spent most of his senior year playing on offense, but he was considered one of the top defensive back prospects in Texas. Alabama coaches prefer taller defensive backs, and Peprah fits that bill. Plus, Peprah is very intelligent. He is a first-generation immigrant from Ghana (his family was forced to flee political violence). The fleet athlete was impressed with Alabama on his visit, but he's undoubtedly another whose commitment can be chalked up to a respect for the new coaching staff. His brother, Kwabena, was a four-year letterman at middle linebacker for Wyoming.

As a sophomore, Charlie was named Sophomore of the Year in one of the toughest districts in Texas. As a prep senior, he was used primarily at tailback, where he rushed for 925 yards and nine touchdowns on 95 carries. He had six games of over 100 yards rushing and had 1,500 all-purpose yards. He also had 487 yards receiving. As a junior, he tied for the team lead in interceptions with four while getting 121 tackles. Peprah has the size, speed and athletic ability to play safety or cornerback on the college level. He selected Alabama over Kansas State, Arizona State, Tulane and Arkansas.

Freddie Roach, 6-2, 225, Killen, was considered the second best linebacker in Alabama by most analysts with Auburn signee LeMarcus Rowell of Opelika getting top billing. Roach's commitment several weeks before signing day was nevertheless big for Bama. With the frame to add plenty of muscle and very good speed, Roach is expected to see action as a true freshman. "I've looked at linebackers all across the country on film for two schools (North Carolina and Alabama)," new Defensive Coordinator Carl Torbush said. "And Freddie is as good as I've evaluated, truly outstanding on film. He has all the tools to be an outstanding college player. He could play fullback as well."

Last season Roach rushed for 1,277 yards and 18 touchdowns at Brooks High School. He had 194 tackles, including 23 stops behind the line, and caused six fumbles. He

was a two-time all-state pick and was the state's 4A "Back of the Year." His half brothers are Tim Bowens, a former Alabama wide receiver, and Quentin Bowens, who signed this year. He had 155 tackles, four blocked kicks, 12 sacks, 1,082 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns as a junior; 158 tackles, six blocked kicks, and 14 rushing touchdowns as a sophomore. Roach, who helped his team to an 11-2 record his senior year, rushed for over 3,000 career yards, had over 500 career tackles and 11 blocked kicks. He chose the Tide over South Carolina, Auburn, Mississippi State and Ole Miss.

Mark Sanders, 6-7, 305, of Ashville, had no problem picking a college. With older brother Matt already a member of the Alabama football squad, Sanders knew all along where he wanted to attend college. And when the Tide offered a scholarship early in the recruiting process, the mammoth offensive lineman committed early. His height makes analysts project him as an offensive tackle, but Sanders could help anywhere along the line. Expect him to redshirt his first year to get stronger, but he should provide early depth for Alabama on offense. "He can play either offensive tackle or guard," Helduser said. "He was a dominating high school player who will get better and better. He's a lean 305 pounds with good mobility and strength combination." Mark graded out at 88 percent for the season as a junior and earned all-state honors as an offensive tackle for the Ashville Bulldogs. He was all-state as a junior and senior. As a senior, he was chosen *SuperPrep* All-America. Mark chose the Tide over LSU, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Mac Tyler, 6-6, 335, of Bessemer, has the distinction of having been named the top defensive lineman in Alabama for two consecutive years. Tyler signed with Alabama last year, but academic problems forced him to spend this past year in prep school. At this point he's still not eligible, but sources close to Tyler indicate he's within reach. Getting him on campus has not been easy, but athletes his size who can run are too precious to give up on. Tyler plans to enroll at Alabama in the fall. "I call him 'Big Mac' because of his amazing size and physical presence," said Stan Eggen, the Tide's defensive line coach. "He is very talented, and athletic enough to chase down running backs. Believe me, he is a man."

The former Jess Lanier all-stater, rated by some as the state's top player last season, spent last season at Milford, where he made 75 tackles and 13 sacks. Last year, Mac was a USA Today first team All-America and was the *Birmingham News* player of the year. Mac chose the Tide over Auburn.

2000-2001 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
63	Global Sports (Exh.)	57
95	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	87
92	Troy State	64
110	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	63
100	Louisville (Fox Sports TV)	71
107	Grambling	61
68	Wofford	64
73	Akron @ Birmingham	59
94	North Texas @ Mobile	55
	Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan	
64	Northern Iowa	56
69	Washington	60
73	Cincinnati (OT)	77
82	Alabama State	56
92	Southeast Louisiana	63
82	@ LSU (J-P TV)	73
69	@ Tennessee (ESPN)	86
72	Mississippi State (SEC TV)	59
82	Ole Miss (J-P TV)	63
58	@ Arkansas (SEC TV)	87
70	Kentucky (ESPN)	60
81	Auburn	80
62	@ Vanderbilt	68
76	LSU	66
70	@ Mississippi State	84
76	Georgia	68
60	South Carolina	55
85	Ohio State (CBS)	67
Feb. 21	@ Auburn	7:00
Feb. 24	@ Florida (J-P TV)	Noon
Feb. 28	Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
March 3	@ Ole Miss	TBA
March 8	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 11	@ Nashville	

Men's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
127	Florida	110
128.5	@ LSU	169.5
109.5	Auburn	184.5
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	3rd
Dec. 2		
104.5	@ Georgia	180.5
153	Florida State	145
136	Clemson	105
134	South Carolina	160
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Mar. 3	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 22-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 24	@ College Station, Tex.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Women's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
89	Uralmash BC, Russia (Exh.)	69
109	SBC Prerov, Czech. (Exh.)	61
66	@ Samford	42
64	Tulane	63
	Illinois-Chicago Thanksgiving Tourney	
76	California	63
73	Illinois-Chicago	43
53	@ South Alabama	46
70	@ Belmont	67
65	Memphis	55
54	Michigan State (ESPN)	53
	Sun Splash @ Nassau, Bahamas	
66	Creighton	56
54	Oklahoma State (OT)	58
	St. Peter's Holiday @ Jersey City, N.J.	
74	Massachusetts	62
86	St. Peter's	77
74	Alabama A&M	41
41	@ Georgia	96
60	Auburn	53
67	South Carolina	82
57	Ole Miss	65
65	@ Mississippi State	62
64	@ Kentucky	71
67	@ Ole Miss	64
74	Arkansas	69
75	Tennessee	97
58	@ LSU	74
61	@ Auburn	60
56	@ Vanderbilt	68
Feb. 22	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 25	Florida	2:00
March 1-	SEC Tournament	
March 4	@ Memphis	TBA

Gymnastics

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
	Super Six Challenge	
1, (tie)	Alabama 195.35, Georgia	195.35,
3,	Stanford 195.3, 4, Michigan	194.475,
5,	Florida 194.425, 6, Penn State	193.275
196.25	Auburn	192.35
196.65	@ Florida	195.55
	UCLA Invitational	
196.975	UCLA	197.5
196.975	Cal State-Fullerton	194.3
196.975	Southern Utah	191.525
197.35	LSU	194.7
197.075	Auburn @ B'ham	194.675
197.5	Georgia	197.35
Feb. 24	Kentucky	7:00
March 3	@ Georgia	6:30
March 17	Penn State, Rutgers, Cornell @ State College, Pa.	6:00
March 23	SEC Championships @ Birmingham	TBA
April 7	NCAA Region IV	6:00
April 19-	NCAA Championships	
April 21	@ Athens, Ga.	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)	First
Jan. 26-27	@ Arkansas Invit.	N/A
Feb. 3	@ Florida Invit.	N/A
Feb. 9-10	@ Iowa State	N/A
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington	
March 2-3	USATF @ Atlanta	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville	

Women's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
102	Florida	136
173	@ LSU	123
112	Auburn	186
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	5th
Dec. 2		
105	@ Georgia	178
161.5	Florida State	134.5
137	Clemson	100
174	South Carolina	114
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 25	Last Chance	10:00 a.m.
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 15-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 17	@ Long Island, N.Y.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)	Second
Feb. 27	Illinois Invitational @ Champaign, Ill.	N/A
Feb. 9-10	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg	N/A
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington	
March 2	Florida Last Chance @ Gainesville	
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville	

2001 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
10	Oklahoma	8
5.	Oklahoma	0
6.	Oklahoma	5
3	Nicholls State	5
12	Nicholls State	2
13	Miami (Ohio)	2
2	Miami (Ohio)	1
7	Miami (Ohio)	1
Feb. 21	South Alabama	7:00
Feb. 23	@ UCF	5:00
Feb. 24	@ UCF	12:00
Feb. 25	@ UCF	12:00
Feb. 28	Austin Peay	7:00
Mar. 2	Winthrop	7:00
Mar. 3	Winthrop	4:00
Mar. 4	Winthrop	2:00
Mar. 7	Louisiana Tech	7:00
Mar. 9	Vanderbilt	7:00
Mar. 10	Vanderbilt	4:00
Mar. 11	Vanderbilt	2:00
Mar. 14	UAB	7:00
Mar. 16	@ Kentucky	2:00
Mar. 17	@ Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 18	@ Kentucky	12:00
Mar. 21	B'ham Southern	7:00
Mar. 23	@ Ole Miss	6:30
Mar. 24	@ Ole Miss	4:00
Mar. 25	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 27	@ Louisiana Tech	7:00
Mar. 28	@ Northwest St.	7:00
Mar. 30	South Carolina	7:00
Mar. 31	South Carolina	3:15
Apr. 1	South Carolina	1:00
Apr. 3	Jacksonville St.	7:00
Apr. 4	Southern Miss	7:00
Apr. 6	Georgia	7:00
Apr. 7	Georgia	4:00
Apr. 8	Georgia	2:00
Apr. 11	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 13	@ Tennessee	6:00
Apr. 14	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 15	@ Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 1	West Alabama	7:00
Apr. 20	@ Auburn	7:00
Apr. 21	@ Auburn	3:15
Apr. 22	@ Auburn	1:30
Apr. 25	Samford	7:00
Apr. 27	LSU	7:00
Apr. 28	LSU	4:00
Apr. 29	LSU	1:00
May 4	@ Miss. State	6:30
May 5	@ Miss. State	5:00
May 6	@ Miss. State	1:30
May 11	Arkansas	7:00
May 12	Arkansas	4:00
May 13	Arkansas	1:00
May 16	SEC Tournament	
May 20	@ Hoover Met	
May 25	NCAA Regionals	
May 27	TBA	
June 1	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 3	TBA	
June 8	College World Series	
June 16	@ Omaha, Nebraska	
All times central		

Softball

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
6	Bama Bash	0
11	Illinois State	3
5	Samford	0
5	Tennessee Tech	1
8	Tennessee Tech	2
6	Illinois State	2
@ Texas A&M Classic		
7	UT-Corpus Christi	0
2	Penn State	1
3	Penn State	2
Feb. 23-25 NFCA Leadoff Classic @ Columbus, Ga.		
(Alabama, Arizona State, Kansas, Massachusetts)		
27	Oakland	7:00
28	Michigan	7:00
Mar. 2-4 Crimson Classic (Alabama, Evansville, Marshall, Michigan)		
7	Ball State (2)	5:00
10	@ Georgia (2)	1:00
11	@ Georgia	1:00
17	Arkansas (2)	1:00
18	Arkansas	1:00
20	@ Jacksonville St	6:30
24	@ Tennessee (2)	2:00
25	@ Tennessee	1:00
27	@ Florida (2)	5:00
28	@ Florida	1:00
30	Kentucky	6:30
31	Kentucky (2)	1:00
3	@ UAB	7:00
4	UAB	7:00
7	@ LSU (2)	4:00
8	@ LSU	1:00
11	Chattanooga (2)	5:00
14	Ole Miss (2)	1:00
15	Ole Miss	1:00
18	Auburn (2)	5:00
19	Auburn	1:00
21	Mississippi St (2)	1:00
22	Mississippi State	1:00
24	Troy @ Mont. (2)	5:00
28	@ So. Carolina (2)	1:00
29	@ So. Carolina	1:00
4	@ Albany (2)	6:00
May 10- SEC Tournament		
12	@ Chattanooga, Tenn.	
17	NCAA Regionals	
20	@ campus sites	
24	College World Series	
28	@ Oklahoma City	
All times central		

Men's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
7	Troy State	0
5	Southern Miss	2
7	Samford	0
7	Florida State	0
2	@ Kentucky	5
Feb. 21	AUM	2:00
Feb. 24	South Car St	9:00
Mar. 2	UAB	1:00
Mar. 4	Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 9	Tennessee	1:00
Mar. 11	@ So. Carolina	2:00
Mar. 11	@ Georgia	12:00
Mar. 14- Blue-Gray Tourney		
18	@ Montgomery	
24	Vanderbilt	1:00
27	@ Furman	2:30
28	@ Clemson	1:00
4	@ Florida	1:00
7	LSU	1:00
8	Arkansas	1:00
11	Mississippi State	1:00
14	Baylor	1:00
15	Auburn	9:00
Apr. 19- SEC Championships		
22	@ Lexington	
May 11	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Athens	
All times central		

Women's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
7	Chattanooga	0
7	Denver	0
4	Samford	0
7	UNC-Greensboro	0
7	Troy State	0
4	@ Florida State	3
7	@ Ill.-Chicago	0
1	@ Northwestern	6
6	Mississippi State	1
2	@ LSU	5
25	@ Auburn	Noon
3	@ Kentucky	1:00
10	South Carolina	Noon
16	Tennessee	2:00
18	Florida	1:00
24	@ Georgia	Noon
27	@ Ole Miss	2:00
31	Vanderbilt	Noon
1	Houston	11:00
6	La-Monroe	2:00
13	UAB	Noon
15	Arkansas	Noon
Apr. 19- SEC Championships		
22	@ Starkville	
May 11	NCAA Regionals	
May 13	TBA	
May 17	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Stone Mountain, Ga	
All times central		

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 23	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 25	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 16	Lady Gamecock	
Mar. 18	@ Columbia, SC	
Mar. 30	Liz Murphey Classic	
Apr. 1	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 6	LSU Invitational	
Apr. 8	@ Baton Rouge, La.	
Apr. 20	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
May 10	NCAA Regional	
May 12	TBA	
May 24	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Orlando, Fla.	
June 2		

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 17	SEC Three-Way (Tennessee, @ Miss. St.)	12 of 15
22	Alabama Relays	
25	Apr. 7 @ Clemson Invit.	
13	Sea Ray Relays	
15	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
21	@ TCU	
27	Drake Relays	
28	@ Des Moines, Iowa	
10	SEC Championships	
13	@ Columbia, S.C.	
18	Georgia Tech	
26	Last Chance	
30	NCAA Championships	
June 2	@ Eugene, Oregon	
14	USATF Seniors	
17	@ Eugene, Oregon	
22	USATF Juniors	
23	@ Richmond, Va.	
All times central		

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 17	SEC Four-Way (LSU, Georgia, @ Miss. St.)
22	Alabama Relays
25	Apr. 7 Spec Townes Relays @ Athens, Ga.
14	Miami Invitational @ Miami
26	Penn Relays
28	Apr. 28 @ Philadelphia



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